Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-189
Monday
2 October 1989

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Lebanese Deputies Hold Meeting in Saudi Arabia

Meeting Opens in Al-Ta'if

NC3009140089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The opening session of the deputies meeting was held at the conference hall in al-Ta'if at 1130 this morning. Sixty-three deputies, Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, and members of the Arab tripartite committee attended. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, member of the tripartite committee and Saudi foreign minister, delivered the opening speech. According to the agenda, he will be followed by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, then by former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam. Deputies who asked to speak will then address the session.

The Information Ministry team to the al-Ta'if meetings said a closed session will be held this afternoon to debate the national accord document. [passage omitted]

According to official information, the only sure thing is that the objective of the meetings is to come out with a cherished solution, no matter how long it takes. Unofficial reports say that Speaker al-Husayni has asked those concerned to prepare al-Mansur Palace to receive the deputies immediately after their return to Beirut within 1 week. According to other unconfirmed reports, the deputies will strive during their meetings to surmount the following main points of contention: establishing the powers of the president of the republic, fixing the date for abolishing political sectarianism, preparing a timetable for the withdrawal of Syrian forces from the al-Biqa' Valley, and defining the nature of relations between Lebanon and Syria. [passage omitted]

Riyadh Radio on Opening

LD3009125589 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] The opening session of the Lebanese House of deputies meetings began this morning in the al-Ta'if Conference Hall under the chairmanship of House Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal [Saudi foreign minister], His Excellency Abdellatif Filali [Moroccan foreign minister], and His Excellency Ahmed Ghazali [Algerian foreign minister], the foreign ministers of the higher Arab committee, as well as Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general and the tripartite committee's envoy to Lebanon.

Lebanon's Al-Husayni Speaks

LD3009152989 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Speech by Lebanese Parliament Speaker Husayn al-Husayni at Lebanese house of deputies session in al-Ta'if on 30 September—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Highness the Amir, representative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz; Your Excellency Dr Filali, representative of his Majesty King Hassan II; Your Excellency Brother Ghazali, representative of His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid; gentlemen: It gives me pleasure to express in my own name and in the name of my colleagues—the deputies—our profound thanks for the Arab tripartite committee. We also thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, for its invitation and for hosting this meeting, as well as for its efforts. We all hope that the opportunity is near for our country—Lebanon—to return to its Arab role, and return favor with favor.

Thanks to the kind efforts of the committee so far, an important step—the cease-fire—has been realized. I do not think that I need to describe the horrible tragedies caused by this war, nor do I need to express the extent of the rejection of this war by the Lebanese people and their desire to stop it, as everybody in this world knows. However, this step, as we know and as the committee considered in its plan of action in implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions, will not be a firm step unless the march of the Lebanese national conciliation march and the revival of the constructional institutions begin in order to arrive at the reconstruction of the state and the liberation of the land and the spread of the Lebanese state's authority over all the Lebanese territory and ultimately—as we hope—the return of Lebanon safe and sound to its Arab family, performing its role and contributing to Arab issues and the Arab future.

Here it is inevitable for me to stress that this Arab view of the Lebanese question is congruent with the view of the Lebanese parliament, as has been shown more than once. As you see, the march is long. But here we are and we are quite quickly taking another step, thanks to your efforts. We are duty-bound here to repeat our thanks for the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee and to those working with it, particularly Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant secretary general of the Arab League.

Colleagues, members of the Lebanese parliament: This meeting—and the world and the Lebanese people are looking at what we are going to do—places us at the crossroads. The friends of Lebanon everywhere hope and are working so that we succeed in laying down the document of Lebanese national conciliation. The enemies of Lebanon, wherever they may be, are lying in wait and working so that we fail in laying down the document of Lebanese national conciliation. Our success paves the way to peace—the way of unity and independence—the

way to the future and a free and dignified life. Our failure paves the way to hell as far as our people are concerned, the way to loss as far as our homeland is concerned, and the way to chaos and terrorism as far as the world is concerned.

Our success reaffirms what we have declared and striven for—the effectiveness of our representation of the Lebanese people and the future of this people in all its factions and generations. Our failure contradicts what we have declared and what we have striven for and provides the pretext for whoever wants to harm our assembly in its legitimate capacity and in its unifying role. Our success will keep the friends of Lebanon on the side of Lebanon, and our failure is a failure to keep the pledge. It does not protect a right and will not fulfill a trust. There is nothing in our failure save loss. Colleagues, with such words I do not want here to teach something that you do not know—threatening danger or a victory about to happen. What we have in our hearts—hope and anxiety—is beneficial in determining the more important question: How can we succeed?

Our presence here is proof of our will to succeed. We are not here to adopt propagandist attitudes. We are here with a unique opportunity to show the will of the Lebanese people to live with each other. We are here to show the conciliation among the Lebanese people in clear and firm points which will make calm available and clear the landmarks of the path and help the Lebanese will to overcome. We are not here to enter into futile argument about the Arabism of Lebanon; our presence here on this land and within this framework, with international approval and support, is sufficient proof of the Arabism of Lebanon; in fact this reaffirms the Arabism of the Arabs. We are not here to negotiate as if we are [word indistinct] parties. We are here to cooperate to clarify the required formula which the will of our people seeks to end the war and establish free and dignified life in an independent state—a state of laws and institutions. We are not here to take from one faction and give to another; we are here to take from all factions and give one state to all Lebanese.

We are not here to accept that one faction of the Lebanese is being treated unjustly while another is unjust—one faction is deprived and another is causing this depriviation; one faction is ruling and another is being ruled; one faction is feeling fear and another is intimidating. We are not here to exploit the people's issues—unity, liberation, justice, and equality—for the sake of the interests of one faction or one party or one individual. We are not here to convert our brothers and friends into enemies, and to ignore history or geography and to befriend our enemies and proceed down an impasse and imagine the impossibilities. We are all here side by side in a determined and realistic mood and with hope. It is inevitable that we should succeed.

Colleagues, your experience will make you avoid going down the impasse. An impasse means that we imagine that a faction—irrespective of its number and strength—will succeed in imposing its will and demands on the other factions. An impasse also means that we should imagine that the solution is a solution if it entails keeping out a faction—no matter how small it may be in number or how helpless it may be. An impasse means also that we should proceed toward sifting the contradictory demands of all factions and then imagine that this entails a reform of the society and a basis for the state. An impasse also means that we should imagine that a state which has laws and institutions can be established in a contradictory society, ignoring the necessity of the development of the society. An impasse means also that we should impose a frozen formula incapable of facing the changing reality, locked out to the prospects of the future. An impasse also means that we should imagine a formula based on the fact that each one of us should turn his back on the other and then imagine that this will bring us security and safety.

Colleagues, you occupy a position in the state and society which makes it easy for you during your meeting and dialogue to form a comprehensive vision. Your position with respect to the state allows you to make available for this state what it requires to have among other states and what it should have to rise above the (?factions) and what it should do in order to have connection with all individuals. Your position in society allows you to make available for each region or faction what is its right and what is necessary for it to solidly strengthen loyalty. Your dual position and your experience in exercising legislation and authority will allow you during your meeting and dialogue to succeed in sifting the demands of society on the basis of the logic of the state for the purpose of preserving the homeland, and to combine the factions of Lebanese society in a unity which will preserve [word indistinct] and surpass division. Our success is pinned on attaining the aims of this meeting.

I declare the commencement of our work in confidence, reality, and hope. My confidence in Lebanon is limitless. Long live Lebanon.

King Fahd's Speech Read

LD3009160189 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Speech by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz at Lebanese House of Deputies session in al-Ta'if on 30 September—read by announcer]

[Text] Honorable deputies: God's peace and blessings be upon you. I have the honor to read to you the speech by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, servant of the two holy mosques, which is addressed to you on his own behalf and on behalf of his brothers King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid. Following is the text of the speech.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Honorable deputies, God's peace and blessings be upon you. At the beginning of this historic meeting and with this solid attendance by honorable deputies, we have the

pleasure of welcoming you and expressing our good wishes and our hope that you will be able to achieve what we all wish for and aspire to, namely the reestablishment of peace and harmony in brotherly Lebanon so that it will always remain in identity and affiliation, a free, secure, independent, and stable master.

We also have the pleasure of welcoming you to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which is proud to host you and hopes that your meeting will constitute a point of departure for returning normal and stable life to your brotherly country.

A homeland such as Lebanon where the Lebanese have lived side by side throughout a long history of harmony and fraternity, and which was an example of coexistence and harmony to be followed, must not be turned for any reason into a battleground where brothers fight each other. The bitter conflict which has plagued Lebanon and continued all these years is, in reality and essence, a political conflict. Therefore, political dialogue is the best way of containing the conflict and reestablishing harmony, fraternity, and concord among the sons of that homeland.

Honorable brothers, 14 years have passed since the outbreak of the Lebanese tragedy, during which Lebanon has been exposed to destruction and its people subjected to emigration and deportation, and the number of victims and martyrs who have fallen has shaken the world's conscience. The bloodshed in Lebanon was like the bleeding in the heart of every Arab. Consequently, your Arab brothers called for the Casablanca summit conference to put an end to this tragedy and to contribute to the reestablishment of security and stability in Lebanon, so that there would not remain a hungry child, a grief-stricken woman, or an abandoned elderly person.

The summit's resolution constituted a substantial turning point in the unanimity to deal with the Lebanese crisis and all its political and security aspects in studied practical steps, and to delegate the task of implementing the resolution to a higher committee accorded with full authority to carry out what is required.

Since the Casablanca summit resolution was passed our optimism regarding dealing with crisis has been strong, defying all the elements of despair. This would not have been possible without our firm conviction that the Lebanese crisis, with all its causes, ramifications, and intricacies, would not be impossible to resolve as long as there was firm desire by all the concerned parties to rescue Lebanon from the whirlpool of violence and destruction, and for the parties to respond to the sincere peace efforts aimed at achieving Lebanese national harmony since it is the main way of achieving the desired peace in Lebanon.

In the context of that conviction the committee reached an integrated perception which constitutes a realistic and practical basis for resolving the crisis. And out of feeling a historical responsibility toward Lebanon and in an attempt to bring closer the views of all Lebanese factions, the committee completed the preparation of a draft national concord document to be submitted to the honorable deputies to discuss in the hope that it would gain their approval and achieve the objectives endorsed by the Casablanca summit. It aims to achieve harmony among the Lebanese, based on endorsing constitutional reforms, holding presidential elections, setting up a national harmony government to maintain Lebanon's unity, Arabism, independence, and sovereignty, and to extend the authority of the Lebanese state to the whole of the Lebanese territory with the aim of protecting its security and stability by its own forces, to revitalize the Lebanese state completely with all its constitutional and security institution, and to work toward liberating Lebanon from Israeli occupation and implementing UN Resolution 425 and all other international resolutions stipulating the complete and comprehensive removal of Israeli occupation.

On the basis of all that came the committee's recent resolution issued in Jeddah on 16 September 1989 to give a sincere brotherly response to an appeal by the Lebanese people, who have nearly been annihilated by the tragedy, and whose homes have been destroyed and whose capital, which has offered Arabism and its issues every effort possible, has been plagued by death and destruction. The committee's statement and the painstaking efforts made by its envoy, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, and the quick response of the concerned parties put the Lebanese crisis on the path of a settlement, starting with the return of security in preparation for peace and harmony with the revitalization of the Lebanese state's institutions under the banner of sovereignty, independence, and unity.

The unanimous support for the higher tripartite committee's efforts not only came from Lebanon or Arabs. World forces of various positions supported and aided the efforts and directions of the committee. It has become clear to all, after the past 14 years, that war has not and will not lead to any results. If we attempt to calculate the money spent on war materiel in Lebanon during those years, the result would exceed all expectations and perceptions. The homes destroyed, the land spoiled, the wealth squandered, the bodies mutilated, the lives wasted, and the families made homeless are countless, not to mention the hearts stricken by grief and the guts burned by blood.

However, as war needs instruments, peace also needs instruments. The instrument of war is doubt and the instrument of peace is trust. The instrument of war is rejection and the instrument of peace is cooperation. The instrument of war is hatred and the instrument of peace in amity. The instrument of war is destruction and the instrument of peace is construction.

Now that the issue has moved from the fighters' arena to the debators' table, the time has come to move from exchanging gunfire to making peace wisely—perception and enlightened thinking and wise opinions.

Lebanon can no longer bear more destructive conflicts and more sterile disagreements. Your homeland, brothers, is in your charge, and its future will not be edified by others. Consequently, it is a duty you owe to your country to open a page of cooperation, trust, and harmony, and the door of dialogue, understanding, and concord. You should make this concord as a starting point of your dialogue, because you are the only ones to make it the basis of the edification of your unity, sovereignty, and independence, and the path to secure your stability, security, and prosperity. You know that the only solution to the crisis is the one that stems from the heart of the Lebanese will and legitimacy. If any step toward the solution, any formula of rapprochement, and any document for concord is not part of the Lebanese patriotic conscience, and part of the conviction of each Lebanese, then it has no value whatsoever.

The national concord document, submitted to you by the committee, is a proposal to be pondered and concerted away from the atmospheres of violence, killing, and destruction. If you want to change or amend rules and measures in an atmosphere of peace and harmony, then the best results, with far-reaching consequences and effects, are the ones reached through agreement and concord. This attempts to bar the way of those who do not want the return of peace to Lebanon, and those who will not have the ability or the legitimacy to oppose what you would have agreed upon.

The matter is now in your hands and it is up to you to take matters firmly in hand, be in charge of your own cause, and prove to the whole world that you are able to achieve peace, edify the future of your homeland, and walk anew in the path of civilization.

Noble brothers, the Lebanese tragedy has been living a long dark night, so much so that all the conflicts, however important they are, no longer equal a tear in the eye of a child who lost his mother, or a cry from the mouth of a widow who lost her son, or a sigh from a family who lost its home or head of house. Consequently, the end of this tragedy should be paramount.

Many events have taken place between the day this situation broke out and today. Situations are different, things have changed, positions have moved, but the core and the base still remain the human cause, the cause of life, and the cause of the role which Lebanon should regain in the various international and Arab quarters.

The Lebanese dawn will undoubteldy be in the offing sooner or later. The Lebanese people who sacrificed a lot and suffered a lot, are capable, God willing, to make this country a new model for authentic, noble, and free life. Consequently, it is required to give Lebanon the oppportunity to breathe, to work for the revival of its legal institutions, to discard conflicts between its sons, to bring concord and serenity back between them, and to lay the bridges of trust, cooperation, and brotherhood among their ranks, so that Lebanon retrieves its position and resumes its role, and so that the Lebanese again start spreading development everywhere, bearing knowledge and culture, and flowing with giving and creativity in all fields, as the world has known it for so many years.

Noble brothers, the decision is yours. Lebanon and all the Lebanese will benefit from your agreement. The whole world is following your historic meeting today. While we are awaiting with every Lebanese and with every Arab the fruit of your meeting, we hope that the only issue on your agenda will be the cause of peace, the revival of the constitutional institutions, and the unity, sovereignty, and independence of Lebanon. We beseech Almighty God to help you find a shortcut toward the aspired peace in Lebanon and to guide your steps toward the good of the one independent Lebanon, toward the safety of people in Lebanon and their security and stability. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

First Session Concludes

LD3009205989 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] At 2115 [1815 GMT] the first closed session of the Lebanese House of Deputies ended at the Palace of Conferences in al-Ta'if. It was chaired by speaker of the House of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni.

The session lasted 3 hours, during which the document of the national accord prepared by the tripartie higher Arab committee was reviewed. An exchange of viewpoints and opinions to realize national accord and reconciliation in Lebanon also took place.

The Lebanese House of Deputies is expected to resume its second closed session tomorrow morning [1 October], God willing.

The first closed session was attended by His Royal Highness the Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; His Excellency the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali; His Excellency the Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali; the Arab League assistant secretary general; the envoy of the tripartite committee to Lebanon Lakhdar Ibrahimi. The session was also attended by all the members of the Lebanese House of Deputies who have come to al-Ta'if for this purpose.

Work Resumes in Al-Ta'if

LD0110131489 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies resumed its closed working session at 1015 this morning at the Palace of Conferences in the city of al-Ta'if. The session was chaired by Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, with the participation of all members of the chamber who had come to the city of al-Ta'if. This session comes in the context of the meetings of the chamber which are currently being held in the city of al-Ta'if at the request of the Arab higher tripartite committee in order to accomplish national concord in Lebanon.

Second Closed Session Ends

LD0110153489 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies concluded its second closed session at 1400 this afternoon. This session began this morning in the Palace of Conferences in the city of al-Ta'if under the chairmanship of Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the chamber, and with the participation of all the deputies who have come to the city of al-Ta'if.

During this session, which lasted 3 hours and 45 minutes, views and ideas were exchanged, as were suggestions concerning the Lebanese charter of concord, which was prepared in order to bring about concord and national reconciliation in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies is scheduled to begin its third closed working session this evening.

Deputies To Form Working Committee

NC0210072089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The Lebanese parliamentary meetings are continuing in the Saudi city of al-Ta'if. After sessions devoted to general matters, serious and in-depth discussion began on the accord document submitted by the Arab tripartite committee at the third closed session which was held last night. [passage omitted]

Deputies 'Abd-al-Mawla Amhaz, Salih al-Khayr, Yusuf Hammud, and Tawifq 'Assaf said the deputies decided last night to form a working committee representing all trends. The committee will study in detail the national accord document prepared by the Arab committee. The four deputies announced this decision during a surprise visit to the press center, located about 20 km from the palace of conferences where the deputies are meeting.

The four deputies explained that the principle of forming this committee was approved during the third closed session. They noted that the formation of the working committee and terms of its reference will be defined by the deputies during their next meeting at noon today.

The structure of the parliamentary committee had not been decided by late last night. However, the following names have been mentioned: Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, committee chairman; and Deputies Butrus Harb, Jamil Kibbi, Tawfiq 'Assaf, Khatchig Babikian, Nasri al-Ma'luf, Edmond Rizq, 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Michel Sasin, 'Ali al-Khalil, Anwar al-Sabah, and Zahir al-Khatib.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Mawla Amhaz said that the deputies have agreed to adopt the tripartite committee's document, with some minor changes. [passage omitted]

Proceedings Detailed

JN0210094789 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Oct 89 pp 1, 20

[By Ma'ruf al-Da'uq]

[Text] Al-Ta'if—The Lebanese parliamentary meetings continued yesterday, Sunday, in an attempt to reach an agreement on a reform document satisfactory to all parties in Lebanon.

Despite the total blackout clamped on the meetings keeping journalists uninformed about what was going on, the few reports leaked out to journalists by telephone indicate that the speeches delivered so far have dealt mostly with generalities and have not gone into the details of the reform document, which will be the subject of the next discussion.

An informed parliamentary source has disclosed to AL-RA'Y that intensive contacts are taking place on the sidelines of the official parliamentary meetings to narrow viewpoints, remove differences, and discover the parliamentarians' positions on the proposed reform document.

The parliamentary source pointed out that the Christian deputies are divided into two groups. The first group supports the constitutional reforms proposed in the document, demanding only some slight changes that do not affect the substance of the document; the second group still has reservations and demands a timetable for Syrian withdrawal before agreeing to the proposed reform document.

The source added that the Muslim deputies are also split into two groups. The first group strongly supports the document as it stands, saying there should be no amendments, however small. This group considers the document the minimum demand for giving its support. It says there must not be any concessions on any provision.

The second group is more flexible. It says there is no harm in discussing the document to clarify the various parties' viewpoints and positions. And, if there are to be some slight amendments, there is no objection to that, provided they do not affect the substance, especially constitutional powers. This group contends that it is impermissible to retain all constitutional powers in the hands of the president of the Republic. The prime minister must be given wider powers in conjunction with the ministers. Parliamentary sources point out that despite the discussions which have taken place so far, the deputies have not yet revealed their real cards. Every one of them is trying to sound out the other in order to read his mind and plans before making any move.

The sources asserted that if all efforts fail to reach an agreement on a single plan, it is most likely that speaker Al-Husayni will present the plan he reached with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr last summer. This plan is still a secret. Phalangist sources close to party leader Dr George Sa'adah have disclosed that a long meeting

lasting almost 3 hours took place last Friday-Saturday night between Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Dr Sa'adah and Deputy Michel Sasin.

During this meeting, Prince Faysal emphasized the need to reach an agreement. He called on Sa'adah and Sasin to show a positive attitude toward the document submitted by the tripartite committee. The prince promised that the committee will do its best to carry out whatever is agreed by the Lebanese deputies.

The Phalangist sources said that Prince Faysal considered such a positive attitude essential in enabling the committee to reach practical results in its present contacts to restore Lebanese sovereignty and schedule the withdrawal.

Parliamentary sources said that Prince Faysal met last night with the deputies of the Islamic grouping. He then met twice with Deputy Sa'adah. He also met with independent Maronite deputies. These sources disclosed that Prince al-Faysal is trying through these private contacts to remove any obstacles preventing a quick agreement on the unified reform document.

The Saturday session was addressed by 11 deputies, including Sa'ib Salam, Nasir al-Ma'luf, Edward Hunayn, [pro-Iraq Lebanese Ba'th Party leader] 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i, Edmond Rizq, Najah Wakim, 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Rashid al-Sulh, Dr 'Ali al-Khalil, Pierre Hilu, and Hamid Dakrub. According to the parliamentary sources, the deputies did not discuss the Arab document in detail. Their speeches were of a general nature. Still, the session was not entirely devoid of heated discussions, especially when Dr al-Rafi'i called for Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. Rashid al-Sulh replied by asserting that the Syrian forces are in Lebanon in accordance with a decision by the Arab League and at the request of the legitimate Lebanese Government.

Deputy Wakim also attacked Deputy al-Rafi'i, declaring that the Syrian forces are in Lebanon at the request of the legitimate government.

Thirteen deputies addressed the morning session. They were Talal al-Mir'ibi, Ahmad Asbar, Farid Sirhal, George Sa'adah, Anwar al-Sabah, Mikha'il Dahir, Tawfiq 'Assaf, Rafiq Shahin, Zahir al-Khatib, 'Uthman al-Dana, Zaki Mazbudi, Burtus Harb, and Hashim al-Husayni. Speaker Husayn al-Husayni urged the deputies to end public speeches and to start discussing the articles of the proposed Arab reform document.

An expanded parliamentary committee has been set up during these meetings to study the articles of the Arab reform document in detail and the deputies' ideas, and then to devise a strategy to be proposed for the deputies.

In a telephone conversation with a deputy who requested anonymity he denied that the current debates proposed presidential candidates. He asserted that this issue will be discussed after an agreement on a unified reform paper is reached. However, the deputy said that there are many proposed candidates. They include Butrus Harb, August Bakhus, Rene Mu'awwad, Michel al-Khuri, and Manuel Yunus. The list of candidates is expected to be whittled down to two or three names after debate and approval of the reform document.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal held a news conference last night to respond to questions from reporters covering the meetings of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

Beginning the conference, Prince Faysal asserted that he came on behalf of the Algerian and Moroccan foreign ministers to talk about the committee's work.

He said: The committee members are happy with the meeting of the Lebanese parliamentarians after the appropriate atmosphere of security was made available. He added: We are very happy and the optimism is there. This optimism is primarily due to the attendance of a large number of deputies and to the deputies' deliberations, whose results have pleased us. This makes us believe that the first and essential steps for solving the Lebanese crisis have been taken. God willing, on a sound course and based on Lebanese legitimacy.

Al-Faysal said he hoped that the meetings will revive Lebanon's constitutional institutions to move toward a solution.

Al-Faysal asked the reporters not to ask him to discuss or touch on the next or previous meetings because this is not his business; it is that of the Lebanese parliamentarians because they are responsible for disclosing the results and contents of their deliberations to the public. He urged the reporters to confine their questions to the role of the tripartite committee.

He added that the tripartite ministerial committee is at the disposal of the Lebanese. Its tasks will be specified in keeping with the wishes of the parliamentarians.

Following is the text of the news conference:

[Question] The slogan "failure is prohibited" has been raised. How can we achieve that?

[Al-Faysal] [Former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam has raised the slogan "failure is prohibited." We know the responsibility Sa'ib Salam feels in this regard. Therefore, he does not express the hopes of the Lebanese only, but Arab and international hopes as well.

We agree with him in "failure is prohibited," but "success is guaranteed" is basically a Lebanese affair. We all have a role in supporting this trend. We seek and hope that the Lebanese will be able to make this meeting a success and solve the Lebanese crisis.

[Question] If the meeting fails, God forbid, what steps can the tripartite committee take?

[Al-Faysal] We have agreed that "failure is prohibited" and seek to raise the slogan "success is required."

Frankly speaking, we cannot raise or apply both slogans because this would be a contradiction.

[Question] If the Lebanese deputies reach an agreement in al-Ta'if while the decisionmakers are absent, will we be seeing another stage of dialogue with the participation of the decisionmakers?

[Al-Faysal] I have said that I came to answer questions on the role of the tripartite committee, not on the dialogue among the Lebanese parliamentarians or its results. However, what I can say is that the meeting has been called for by the Arab [Casablanca] summit given that it will include the existing legitimate body which can discuss the Lebanese crisis, especially regarding the reforms, the elections, and the revival of constitutional institutions because these institutions enjoy the powers to achieve the Lebanese people's aspirations. Pehaps the large presence of deputies in al-Ta'if will make the issue of the legitimacy of this grouping beyond doubt.

[Question] What is the role played by the tripartite committee since the arrival in al-Ta'if of the deputies? How will the committee stop the deterioration?

[Al-Faysal] From the beginning the committee's role was to prepare for this meeting and to provide the opportunity to make this meeting a success. Naturally, the role is intensive and central up to the moment when this meeting begins. Once the meeting begins, this role should be curbed and the major role given to the meetings of the brother parliamentarians.

The committee exerted its utmost to hold the meeting. Consequently, the major role will be given to the meeting of the parliamentarians. The tripartite Arab committee is at the disposal of the parliamentarians. We are ready for whatever they want.

Frankly, I did not notice any differences among the deputies that require any mediators or mediation. I noticed that the Saturday meeting was frank and open, thus demonstrating the soundness of the meeting.

[Question] The tripartite committee exerted huge efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis. It has chosen the correct framework; that is, the discussion of the Lebanese national accord document. But who will guarantee the result? If the deputies agree on the document or amend it, what will be the role of the tripartite committee to guarantee the implementation of the deputies' position, particularly since the deputies do not carry either launchers or rockets?

[Al-Faysal] In fact, the parliament is the right body to look into this subject. We must admit that it is the one that can answer these questions.

The role of the committee within this framework is to endeavor to revive the constitutional institutions in Lebanon because the summit resolution calls for this in order to guarantee Lebanon's unity and independence on all its national territory. And this is the logic the tripartite committee follows.

If we reach the stage in which the constitutional institutions are revived, these institutions will be responsible for carrying out any agreement reached. And the support to be given by the committee is the support decided by the Casablanca summit.

[Question] Do you believe that the ongoing dialogue in al-Ta'if must be followed by another Christian-Syrian dialogue?

[Al-Faysal] All that I can say is that this meeting is among the Lebanese for them to reach agreement on some issues. If not all the Lebanese reach an agreement with the other side, this agreement will be incomplete and will be considered a departure from the course of dealing with the Lebanese issue. We are not working to divide the Lebanese. The most important thing is to invigorate the constitutional institutions.

[Question] During your visit to Washington and the meeting with U.S. President Bush for the implementation of Resolution No 425, we learned that Bush asked you to give him some time to pressure Israel to effect the resolution. Has the time ended or are we still moving in a vicious circle?

[Al-Faysal] After the higher Arab tripartite committee met in Rabat, it decided to carry out a definite working program and embark on international contacts with both Arab and international circles, including the permanent members of the Security Council and the UN secretary general to make the United Nations and the Security Council adopt a stand on the implementation of Resolution No 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. And the implementation of the 1948 truce is one of the four articles prepared by the committee in the national accord document.

As part of these contacts the tasks were distributed among the ministers of the tripartite committee to hold these talks. Saudi Arabia was asked to dispatch its envoy to approach the United States. I held talks with President Bush on this issue.

I would like to recall the report issued by the committee which explains in detail the results of the contacts. Those contacted voiced their full support for the concept proposed by the higher committee on its deliberations to resolve the Lebanese crisis; they expressed their readiness—as international parties—to help in implementing Resolution No 425.

[Question] It is reported that General Michel 'Awn will come to al-Ta'if at the invitation of the committee. How true is this?

[Al-Faysal] This is untrue because only the parliamentarians are invited here.

[Question] There is talk that the committee has offered cease-fire guarantees. If this is true, what are these guarantees?

[Al-Faysal] Actually, the higher committee has since its establishment worked publicly. It has clearly stated from the beginning that it will work openly and that it will be open to the public. All it did, all its contacts, and all the topics it discussed were published and publicized. I do not have any additional information in this regard. No unknown measures were taken and there are no guarantees on a cease-fire and the lifting of blockades other than those mentioned in the committee's reports. The committee's statement is well known and the talks held by Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the committee's representative, are also known and clear. All of these were announced and there is nothing hidden.

[Question] The committee meets with the deputies. What is the nature of these meetings and what are the obstacles, if any?

[Al-Faysal] As I have said, the ministerial committee members are directed by their leaders to be at the service of the brother parliamentarians. Therefore the committee and the parliamentarians are in touch at all stages. This is the role given to the committee. As for the results of the committee's contacts, I am not entitled to disclose them to you.

[Question] The committee had earlier announced that it had reached a dead end. Do you have guarantees that the committee will not face any obstacles?

[Al-Faysal] Actually, I said earlier that the committee undertook a mission and arrived at this conclusion. Now it is hoped that the parliamentarians' meeting will henceforth define the course of the Lebanese crisis. We believe the present time is one of detente and of discussing the issue fundamentally by the Lebanese themselves. A stage has ended and another started. The committee's role, as I have said, has changed as it should change under the current circumstances. This is what the present situation reflects.

We hope that all efforts will focus on supporting the brother parliamentarians and the steps that will follow this stage. Naturally, the committee will extend all possible assistance to bring about the success of the parliamentarians' mission here as well as their future missions.

[Question] It was reported that you will visit Damascus soon.

[Al-Faysal] It would not be unusual for me to visit Damascus at any time, but there are no plans to visit now.

Replying to a question by a foreign correspondent, he said: The meeting being held here did not come at the request of the Kingdom, but upon a recommendation by the Arab summit in Casablanca. The Lebanese deputies were given the freedom to attend and to decide on a suitable venue. The Kingdom did not set any conditions on holding this meeting. The meeting took place in accordance with the desires of the parliamentarians themselves.

[Question] Will the success of this meeting facilitate King Fahd's visit to Washington?

[Al-Faysal] King Fahd's visit was not conditional on the results of this meeting. The postponement was due to the failure of President Bush and the U.S. Government to show understanding, as well as their failure to shoulder their responsibilities toward the Arab committee's mission. But the king's visit is not conditional on the results of this meeting.

[Question] Are you optimistic?

[Al-Faysal] I have actually said I am optimistic that positive results will be reached due to the recently adopted security measures. Guns have lapsed into silence and will be replaced by dialogue. I also believe that the large number of deputies attending is cause for satisfaction and optimism. Besides, all people and all Lebanese feel that the situation is heading toward peace. For all these reasons I believe that all those following up these meetings are optimistic over the possibility of reaching positive results.

GCC Head Addresses EC Foreign Ministers at UN

LD2909125689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0807 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] United Nations, Sept 29 (KUNA)—Representatives of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) expressed to the European Community foreign ministers Thursday [28 September] their concern at the stalemated situation between Iraq and Iran.

At a GCC-hosted luncheon, the current chairman of the six-member group, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak al-Khalifah told the twelve ministers unless a breakthrough is achieved, tension, uncertainty and threats to the stability of the area and world peace will remain.

"The absence of war is not equal to peace," Shaykh Mubarak said.

The GCC was represented by the foreign ministers of Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman, and the permanent U.N. representatives of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The Bahraini official said the GCC fully supports the U.N. secretary-general's efforts in this respect and is ready to assist him in every possible manner to overcome the obstacles.

He also urged the EC to demonstrate its "solid backing and support for the secretary-general's endeavours and to bring its influence to bear on maintaining the unity of the international community behind this mandatory resolution," meaning Resolution 598 of 1987, which calls for a comprehensive peace.

"I need not add that we both will benefit from the prevalance of peace, and both will lose in its absence.

Therefore, we must work togeter to break the deadlock that has so far hampered the negotiations," he said.

Turning to Palestine, Shaykh Muhammad hailed the community's readiness to actively participate in a search for a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to uphold justice for all people in the region.

"We believe that the twelve can play an important role in ending the systematic Israeli practices of deportation, demolition of houses, expropriation of properties, torture and other repressive measures," the Bahraini minister said.

He said the importance of the time factor in putting an early end of the Israeli occupation has been amply demonstrated by the intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian people.

"We are sure that the community will contribute to the attainment of peace and tranquility in the Middle East," he said.

"It is in the interest of both regions to work for the evolution of a peaceful settlement. It is incumbent upon us to exert concerted efforts to facilitate the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East in order to establish a comprehensive, just and lasting peace," Shaykh Muhammad said.

On Lebanon, he expressed the group's shock at the large number of innocent people killed in the course of the war raging there, and by the extent of the destruction.

He said the GCC supports the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee which he said has decided to resume its mission in response to international calls and has already proposed a blueprint for a peaceful solution of the problem.

Shaykh Muhammad urged the twelve to continue lending its full support to the committee's efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Discusses 10-Point Plan, Lebanon, Syria

JN2909141089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1315 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] London, 29 Sep (WAKH)—In a news statement published on the eve of his departure for Tokyo, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said that there are no 10 Egyptian points. He added that there are rather 10 ienquiries to which Israel is asked to reply.

'Arafat said that talking about the 10 points is falling into the Israeli trap, as such talk would mean that there is an initiative on which Israel can respond or fail to respond. However, he added that the inquiries submitted mean that replies are demanded.

In his statement to the newspaper AL-HAYAT, the Palestinian president stressed "his adherence to the convocation of an international peace conference."

On Lebanon, 'Arafat said that he hopes that current events there do not constitute only a mere truce designed to prepare another conspiracy against Lebanon and the Arab nation. He added that what is happening is a race between pan-Arabism and international balkanization, which seeks to divide the region into sectarian cantons. Hence, I pray from the bottom of my heart for the success of the tripartite committee's efforts, 'Arafat said.

'Arafat viewed the liquidation of some Islamic figures in Lebanon as an unforgivable crime. He added that the Arab nation should not remain silent over this crime. He also expected that an Arab summit will convene in February.

When asked about ties with Syria, 'Arafat said ties have become normal after his contacts in Belgrade with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

To Seek Recognition From Japan

OW3009032189 Tokyo KYODO in English 0310 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, Sept. 29 KYODO—Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Friday he will ask Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to recognize an independent Palestinian state when he makes his first official visit to Japan Sunday.

While he did not discuss the feasibility of getting Japanese acknowledgement, 'Arafat expressed gratitude for Japan's permission to upgrade the PLO office in Tokyo to a "Permanent General Mission of Palestine."

"It reveals the positive Japanese stance in the future toward tackling the Palestinian issue," 'Arafat told KYODO news service in PLO Headquarters here prior to his first Tokyo visit since 1981.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry Friday said the measure does not mean Japan has recognized the PLO's self-declared state of Palestine.

While Japan calls for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and its recognition of the Palestinians' right to establish an independent state, it has not joined some 100 countries in recognizing the declaration issued at the Palestinian national conference last November.

'Arafat said he will visit Japan as a representative of an organization and not as the president of the Palestinian state, as the Japanese governmental invitation requested. 'Arafat also said he plans to meet Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and the leaders of opposition parties.

'Arafat said a peaceful and stable Middle East situation is vital not only to the world but to an economic power like Japan.

He expressed great hope that Japan would help bring about the long-pending end to the historical fued between Israel, which refuses an independent Palestinian state, and the PLO, which vigorously seeks one.

'Arafat said the PLO is studying all issues relating to the new development in the Middle East peace process stimulated by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's 10-point peace proposal to the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday. The plan calls for direct Israeli-PLO dialogue.

The U.S. stance that a halt to armed fights and terrorism was indispensable to a peaceful solution in the region forced the PLO, which traditionally relied on U.S. mediation, to seek direct peace talks with Israel.

The U.S. demanded, in the fourth U.S.-PLO talks last June, that the PLO cease anti-Israel uprisings in the occupied territories as a condition to enforcing an election in the region called for by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Israel maintains its position of not negotiating with members of the PLO. The PLO said it is the sole representative of the people of the Palestine.

'Arafat will stay in Tokyo until October 4. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is also expected to visit Tokyo within the next few months.

Tokyo PLO Office Upgraded

OW0210122289 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), on Monday celebrated the upgrading of the PLO office in Tokyo to a "permanent general mission of Palestine" at a ceremony held here.

Japan is the third country to allow such a move, following the upgrading of PLO offices in France and Italy, a PLO official said.

Japan agreed to the PLO's proposal to boost the status of the office because it approves of the realistic and moderate policies of the PLO, according to the official.

After hoisting a Palestinian flag at the mission in Tokyo's Shinagawa Ward, 'Arafat, here on a four-day official visit from Sunday, said that he hoped the ceremony would mark an important step toward the peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Philippines Recognizes 'State of Palestine'

JN2909204289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] The Philippines has officially recognized the state of Palestine. Last night the two sides signed a document of reciprocal recognition at the UN Headquarters. The document was signed for the Philippine side by Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus, and for the Palestinian side by brother Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The recognition document states that the Republic of the Philippines recognizes the state of Palestine along with its right to an independent homeland and the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Likewise, the state of Palestine has recognized the Republic of the Philippines and its Constitution and sovereignty.

In their statement, the two countries asserted their full support for convening the international conference for peace in the Middle East, respect for the sovereignty of the two states, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. The two sides agreed to discuss the exchange of diplomatic missions and official visits later.

Abu-Mazin Welcomes Dialogue With Israel in Moscow

NC2909204889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, 29 Sep (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, has declared that the PLO approves of the Soviet proposal to organize a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Moscow. He called on the Israeli Government to respond favorably to this proposal and to go the dialogue without preconditions.

Abu-Mazin said that the Soviet proposal constitutes an important step toward pushing forward the process of achieving a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and of solving the Palestinian issue.

He stressed that the Tel Aviv rulers' stalling tactics and their rejectionist and intransigent policy will not enable them to achieve their objectives of striking at the intifadah of the Palestinian people, nor will they deter the Palestinian people from proceeding on the path of struggle to secure their legitimate national rights.

Yesterday, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze expressed his country's willingness to play host to a dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli delegations at which a settlement of the Palestinian issue would be discussed.

AL-QABAS Interviews 'Arafat Adviser Al-Hasan

LD2909113789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0847 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 29 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official Friday was quoted as saying that the PLO supports the proposal of holding a meeting between Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Cairo.

In an interview with daily AL-QABAS, Hani al-Hasan, the political adviser to the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said this meeting should be held without preconditions and without a specific agenda. He added that the Israeli and Palestinian delegations can then agree on the

agenda, and the PLO has no objection to discuss the Israeli elections plan and the Egyptian 10-point proposal at this meeting.

In an answer to a question, Al-Hasan denied that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat had reached an understanding on the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the proposed Cairo meeting.

Answering another question whether the PLO has abandoned the idea of an international peace conference by accepting the Cairo conference between Palestinian and Israeli delegates, Al-Hasan denied that and said at his recent meeting with French officials last Tuesday the two sides agreed on the importance of the international conference as a mechanism for a ('comprehensive) settlement.

He added that the Palestinian side told the French officials that the PLO is waiting for the Israeli response to the Egyptian 10-point plan and is prepared for the Cairo conference to be a first step or a preparatory stage for the international conference. Al-Hasan disclosed that a high level Egypto-French-Palestinian meeting would be held in Paris following the trip to the United States by President Mubarak so as to evaluate the current situation and the steps that can be taken for the next phase.

On Syrian-Palestinian relations, the Palestinian official said the idea of a visit to Damascus by a Palestinian delegation would be decided in the light of the meeting this week between Palestinian and Syrian Foreign Ministers Faruq Qaddumi and Faruq al-Shar'.

Asked on 'Arafat's possible visit to United Nations Headquarters in New York this year, Al-Hasan said no decision has been taken on this subject yet, adding that such a trip requires a conviction that this step would be of an important result.

He further said that "the rule of Palestinian political action says that we go to where there is a benefit to our cause, but so far this conviction about 'Arafat's visit to New York this year has not been reached."

Khalaf on U.S. Dialogue, 'Arafat U.S. Visit

PM0110120989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 89 p 1

[Zaki Shihab report: "Abu-Iyad Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: PLO Studying Question of 'Arafat Visit to New York"]

[Text] London—Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) has stated that the consultations held by the Palestinian leadership in Tunis with a number of Palestinian figures from the occupied territory focused on the ongoing Palestinian popular intifadah and the proposals submitted by Egypt to the Israeli Government.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from the headquarters in Tunis, Abu-Iyad said there was full agreement on all topics between the PLO and the patriotic figures who attended the Tunis meeting. Everyone, he added, awaits the Israeli Government's reply to the Egyptian proposals after President Husni Mubarak's return from the United States.

He said the PLO is not opposed to a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue but that that should not be a substitute for an international conference under UN supervision attended by all parties concerned, and topics to be discussed must include the right of self-determination.

Khalaf also revealed that the Palestinian leadership in Tunisia was studying the question of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to New York and possible results of such a visit, before applying for an entry visa to the United States.

He pointed out that the memorandum submitted by some congressmen opposing such a visit clearly indicates partiality toward Israel and shows that the idea of a just and comprehensive settlement is far from the minds of many in U.S. Administration circles.

Answering a question about the next session of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in Tunis, which, according to some reports, is likely to be held soon, Abu-Iyad said: I do not believe that there will be any U.S.-Palestinian dialogue before completion of the consultations now in progress in the United States and disclosure of the results of the international contacts held there with a view to reactivating the efforts for a settlement of the Palestinian question, particularly the U.S.-Soviet meeting and President Mubarak's consultations with the various parties capable of contributing to a settlement of the region's crisis.

He added that if Washington decided to resume its dialogue with the PLO it would mean that there is something new to be submitted, otherwise there would be no point in holding more meetings where the United States takes the Israeli position, especially on the issue of elections in the occupied territory.

Referring to what U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said about contacts with the PLO other than the Tunis dialogue, Abu-Iyad said that there were no other meetings with the exception of the meetings held between U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and Fatah Central Committee Member and Palestinian Ambassador to Tunisia Hakam Bal'awi.

He added: Perhaps Baker was referring to the contacts held through a third party which, most probably, is the Soviet friends or Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, or something like that.

The Palestinian official reaffirmed the PLO's support for the efforts made by the Arab tripartite committee to settle the Lebanese crisis. He added: "Any setback in the settlement process could take Lebanon back to the days

of bombardment and a new bloodbath that would only be in the interest of the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab nation."

He expressed the hope that the Lebanese deputies' meeting in al-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia would mark the beginning of a real and durable solution that would reflect agreement by the Lebanese people's representatives on a formula for a political settlement that would restore the unity of the Lebanese people, territory, and institutions.

He urged all parties in Lebanon to support the committee and remove any obstacles that may hinder its work.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Welcomes Mubarak's UN Speech

NC2909205889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] In a statement to our correspondent in New York, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has declared that the PLO unequivocally supports the part of President Mubarak's UN speech dealing with the Palestinian issue. He also described Mubarak's stand as wise, farsighted, and protective of the Palestinian people's rights.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will be held between representatives of the PLO and Israel, because the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories are all PLO.

'Abd-Rabbuh expressed the hope that the Egyptian-U.S. summit talks in Washington on Monday will be a further step toward bolstering the peace process and safeguarding the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He said: We urge President Bush to respond to this momentous event and to push forward the peace process in the Middle East.

IJO Rejects Mubarak's Plan, Calls for Strikes

JN0110181889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization [IJO] in Palestine issued a statement today which was distributed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The statement called on Palestinians in the occupied territories to escalate the intifadah [uprising] and restore to it the character of popular struggle it had in the first months of its eruption. The IJO called for a general strike on 6 and 12 October. The IJO also called for organizing protests of defiance on 6 October and that women, children, and men should hide their faces with the Palestinian headdress, whether on the streets or at work, in reply to the Israeli authorities' decision to open fire on people wearing masks.

The statement also called on Palestinians to shout "Allah-u Akbar" with one voice in the mosques and from the rooftops on 12 October, the anniversary of the prophet's birthday.

In addition, the IJO statement rejected Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's plan on elections in the occupied territories, describing it as a polished replica of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan.

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses UN General Assembly 29 Sep

NC2909184589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1423 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Speech by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to the UN General Assembly in New York—live]

[Text] Mr Chairman. It pleases me to begin my speech at the new session of the UN General Assembly by extending heartfelt congratulations on your election as chairman of this session, as a devoted son and representative of the glorious African Continent. This reflects the international community's respect for your brotherly country Nigeria and faith in your creative capabilities and high efficiency. We trust that you will succeed in shouldering the great responsibilities entrusted to you and in adding much to the traditions established by this great organization.

I seize this opportunity to commend the great efforts exerted by your predecessor, the former foreign minister of Argentina, during his chairmanship of the 43rd UN General Assembly session.

Since the inauguration of the 43rd session of the UN General Assembly, the world has witnessed significant and fundamental changes at both the international and regional levels. These changes promise a new era in international relations and make it incumbent on this respected gathering to follow up on developments and to demonstrate readiness for them in a manner providing a favorable atmosphere for preserving the rights of large and small countries alike, maintaining their security, and ensuring that each will have its role in this march. The march does not concern major countries alone, because it will have a bearing on the future of mankind in general, particularly since the problems facing the Third World, especially the economic ones, are still waiting for agreement on an acceptable formula for tackling them effectively.

Hence, we must act together to widen our vision of the world in this new era and determine the role each of us should play as a contribution to the foundations and the features of this world. The absence of this collective participation on the part of the international household will leave this era of detente lacking in clarity and stability and will expose it to the setbacks and tremors which might have a negative impact on our vision of the future.

Mr President. My brother African heads of states and governments have honored me by electing me chairman of the OAU current session. I take pride in this trust, and so does my country, which was at the forefront of the liberation march at an important stage of world history. My country is still determined to continue the struggle until the African Continent is freed completely from racism, persecution, poverty, and need and becomes capable of facing up to the difficult challenges and the multiple problems that hinder its march toward development and progress. We strongly believe that regardless of the severity of these problems and challenges, the African nation possesses enough power to overcome these obstacles with a relentless and strong will and a glorious record of struggle. It also has the ability to run collective action with the spirit of solidarity.

If our primary concern is to confront our domestic and regional problems and issues, we also realize that these problems are interlinked and connected with the international conditions. Hence, we are prepared to carry out a basic role in laying the foundation for the transformation to the new world where common interests outweigh the dispute and contradiction and where natural and human resources are directed toward serving the goals of development and progress instead of war and destruction.

A glance at the challenges confronting us on the African level will show that foremost is the issue of confronting the policies and practices of the racist regime in the southern part of the continent. The world community agrees that they are the main cause of the acts of violence in this vital area of the continent and of the political, security, and social instability there.

We must always consider that the reforms which the South African Government said it has carried out are mere formal superficial procedures which ignore the essence of the problem. Furthermore, they emanate from a racist perspective which tries to continue the white minority's domination and to make the world believe that the reforms are steps in the right direction. If this regime were serious in its actions, it would have realized that the democratic dialogue with the black majority is the only way to reach a just settlement which would restore the legitimate rights of the powerless majority, protect the interests of all parties, and put an end to the escalating violence in the south.

Since its establishment, the United Nations has played a basic role in securing the independence of Namibia. Successive resolutions were issued providing for terminating South Africa's mandate and for the United Nation's assuming the direct responsibility for Namibia's administration. The UN efforts were crowned by the Security Council's issuing Resolution 435 for 1987. This action accompanied the bitter struggle which the fraternal Namibian people waged under the leadership of the South West African People's Organization to liberate their land and retrieve their rights. Permit me to address a greeting from this platform to these heroic people who gave the most splendid example of sacrifices and proved to the whole world the real mettle of the noble African peoples.

Despite our confidence in the inevitability of the victory of the Namibian people and their success in attaining their independence on schedule, the situation requires us to be very vigilant and alert to the attempts which the racist minority regime is carrying out to undermine this independence and destroy it from within, fake the will of

the voters, and terrorize them. Therefore, the committee of the heads of the African states and governments which is charged with following up on the situation in the southern part of Africa held a meeting in Harare on 21 August 1989 to lay down the plans for confronting and aborting these attempts so that the sun of freedom might shine again on this good land and in order that next April we might all celebrate this great event.

The aforesaid committee has issued a declaration embodying its visualization of the required African strategy to confront the moves by the racist regime in Pretoria. This strategy is based on emphasizing the equal rights and obligations of all peoples regardless of their color, race, or creed. It also issued an appeal to all peace-loving forces to adopt the call for the release of all political detainees and prisoners in South Africa. This is a call to which the esteemed assembly ought to give the attention and support it deserves.

We cannot accept the continuation of this disgraceful brand on the history of mankind or be lenient in confronting its destructive effects. Therefore, it is the duty of the United Nations, which was established to uphold the rights of all peoples to freedom and self-determination, to resist this regime and to work toward its further isolation. The United Nations should also exert pressure on this regime by all means until it submits to the will of the world community, abandons its illusion that it can continue to crush the overwhelming majority with the force of steel and fire, and opens the doors of the prisons and detention camps for the intellectuals and free strugglers.

In addition to these grinding problems, the African countries are suffering in particular from the debt problem. This problem has assumed grave dimensions and is threatening to abort the development programs and to prevent African countries from acting to modernize production systems and absorb advanced technology. Thus the vicious circle of poverty and backwardness continues.

In view of the aggravation of this problem and of the increased awareness of its gravity, some countries have willingly undertaken initiatives to limit its effects and contain its consequences. But in our view, the ideas proposed are not thought sufficient to confront this problem in all its dimensions and in its effects on the economic and social situations in the continent's various countries. Thus the leaders of three friendly developing countries—Senegal, Venezuela, and India—and I proposed an initiative last July to revive North-South dialogue and enrich it by discussing the debt problem within its framework. My colleagues, the leaders of the fraternal African countries and governments, have blessed this initiative at the recent OAU summit and authorized me to hold the necessary international contacts to push the notion of the dialogue forward so that this dialogue will lead to holding an international conference on the debt problem in accordance with the resolution passed by the first extraordinary OAU summit in December 1987.

The debt problem is undoubtedly part of a larger and wider problem, namely that of the existing imbalance in the international economic order, which has reached dimensions which we cannot ignore or remain silent about. Thus the ninth summit conference of the nonaligned countries, which was held in Belgrade earlier this month, gave this problem great attention and placed it at the top of the movement's priorities. The attending leaders, who represent more than two-thirds of the world's leaders, agreed on the need to confront this problem practically and effectively in view of its aggravation and deterioration in the past few years which resulted from the deterioration in international trade conditions, the drop in income from primary commodities, customs and other barriers raised before the developing countries' exports, the weak flow of funds for investments and development, the increased debt burden, and the counter-flow of resources to the extent that the problem facing many Third World countries, particularly the African ones, has become not one of development and growth but one of existence in the real sense of the word.

On this basis, we must recognize that global interest in the Third World countries' economic problems must not cease at the level of extending relief to some countries in cases of national disasters and famines but should extend to a contribution to the advancement of growth.

As the OAU summit did in July, the Nonaligned Movement summit also noted the importance of entering into a fruitful dialogue with the advanced industrial countries on the basic economic issues. It also welcomed the quadripartite initiative we proposed in Paris during the seven industrial countries' summit there. The nonaligned countries' leaders have called for translating the measures and initiatives to reduce the debt burden into a comprehensive confrontation of the debt problem in which new ideas are proposed to help tackle the problem's roots by reducing the debt volume and the burden of servicing them. They also called for the confrontation to embrace all types of developing debtor countries and all kinds of debts, both government and commercial ones.

The conference examined the critical economic situation in Africa with great attention. It called for speeding up the implementation of the UN plan of action for development and economic revival in Africa. It called for the adoption of policies conducive to growth and development in African countries. It also urged the leaders attending the summit conference of the advanced industrial countries and finance and development agencies to increase available credit to Africa and to improve the terms of repayment. The conference also called for a dialogue on the financing of regional programs to be initiated between the African countries and their partners in development. Such dialogue should involve a discussion of the alternative programs of structural adjustment in Africa.

The international economic problem is related to the issue of environment whether on the world level or on

the African level. In this regard, we must recognize two basic facts. The first is that the African states shoulder less responsibility for environmental pollution and contamination than the advanced states; the second is that the spoiling of the African environment is caused by poverty. The effective solution to environmental problems lies in sound environmental development and in the advanced states' refraining from dumping nuclear and chemical waste in and along the coasts of African states and in helping the African states use nonpolluting technologies.

We have found rays of hope in some developments that have emerged in the international arena over the past years. These developments are represented in the relaxation of relations between the East and West, the achievement of tangible progress in the disarmament field, and the start of the solution to a number of regional problems within a fixed time limit after long years of political and military conflagration and confrontation. The progress achieved in this field could not have been made by coincidence. It has instead been a direct result of the improved international atmosphere due to the international strategic, economic, and political conditions having become interlinked and interwined. Each affects and is influenced by the other regardless of the distance separating the sites of events.

A scrupulous observer can deduce that these positive developments reflect a new renaissance for all world nations where dialogue prevails among the various societies for the sake of achieving coexistence and positive cooperation between the East and West, North and South, as well as rich and poor. We have been united by challenges, calamities, and common dangers that menace our fate and future.

While welcoming this positive development, which indicates the emergence of a new era in the history of international relations, Third World nations continue to suffer from numerous fears and doubts. This is primarily due to their belief that the current detente is still centered to a great extent in the field of relations between the major powers and that its positive effects have not yet touched the depth of the general international situation. Detente's positive effects have not yet reached the Third World, particularly its economic situation and related grave political, environmental, and social problems.

It is true that the major powers have concluded quite important agreements in the disarmament field, but what counts in our assessment is that the world achieves tangible progress in the field of all-out disarmament everywhere. This is because in the absence of such disarmament there can be no actual development or real peace, and the effects of disarmament cannot be reflected in the security and prosperity of Third World nations.

Furthermore, Third World countries complain that the limited progress which occurred in the settlement of some regional problems did not involve other equally important problems that might even have a greater effect on security, peace, and stability in the entire world.

All this makes it necessary to ensure the developing countries' participation in the ongoing dialogue, because they are basic partners as far as international problems are concerned. These countries possess enormous human and natural resources and have their own social and cultural background which must be taken into consideration when major international issues are studied.

Nobody can argue against the call for respecting human rights, because we all share the belief in the individual's right to a dignified life and to participate in his country's political and economic decisions. However we, in the Third World, believe in another principle which has to do with the negative effects which hunger, poverty, fear, and unjust terms of trade have on man's rights. Add to this the effects of the foreign occupation of the lands of certain developing countries and the racist and manipulative policies practiced against their citizens and interests. All this leads us to insist on linking the recognized human rights with peoples' rights to freedom, progress, and self-determination.

These meanings prompted the objective and purposeful discussion which the recent nonaligned summit had on the various issues which concern people everywhere and affect their security and safety. There was a unanimity of views within the movement on the need to arrive at a common concept of how to tackle such pressing issues on the basis of a comprehensive dialogue with advanced countries. We hope this unanimity will gain the attention of developed countries and make them view the Third World as an equal partner in the future leadership of the world instead of looking upon it as a third party which only accepts decisions made in its absence, benefits from positive results for which it takes no credit, or suffers from negative effects which it neither created nor aggravated.

Mr President, the United Nations Organization has always played a significant role in establishing the foundation for settling the Middle East issue, particularly the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian problem has gained special attention from all African and Third World countries. The most important basis established by the United Nations for the just and peaceful settlement of the problem is Resolution 242, which was issued by the UN Security Council on 22 November 1967. That resolution takes into consideration the necessary balance between the rights and liabilities of each party to the dispute. Over successive sessions, the UN General Assembly adopted complementary resolutions concerning the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Middle East problem has undergone numerous developments which show how central the Palestinian issue is. They also demonstrate how important it is to deal with it in all its aspects if the goal is to arrive at a comprehensive and historic settlement between the Arabs and Israelis that would end the war, conflict, and destruction and that would pave the way for creative

coexistence between the two parties who are not estranged by historical enmity or by theories based on racist and ethnic factors, and who share a common interest in consolidating peace, stability, and development in favor of all the peoples of the region.

Hence, we insisted on the Palestinian people's direct participation in any settlement efforts through a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue which is supported by all peace-loving powers. The goal of such dialogue is to bridge the existing gap in attitudes and to explore the course that would uproot the conflict. This is only possible through the application of the land-for-peace principle and through coexistence and cooperation among the various peoples of the region. The PLO, in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, has adopted positive stands that would help in achieving these goals. This is an attitude that deserves every possible welcome and assistance from the international community.

I am pleased to state that the efforts we have exerted over the past years have started to bear fruit, and that the circumstances are now favorable for launching this unconditional dialogue in the hope of reaching closer visions of the necessary steps to achieve peace and, ultimately, a complete agreement on the conditions for a comprehensive settlement. Hence, we believe that if the existing opportunity is wasted, it will be a grievous error that will certainly exceed in gravity all past errors. The consequence will be that historic opportunities to contain the conflict and prevent its exacerbation will be lost. It goes without saying that this dialogue will not come out of a vacuum. It will be based on the resolutions and attitudes which give it its international legitimacy, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the established national rights of the Palestinian people. This dialogue must be followed by certain steps that require wider international participation in the framework of an international peace conference. This way a final and comprehensive settlement can be achieved to end this conflict that has lasted for more than 40 years.

Concerning the Iraq-Iran war, we express our satisfaction that the cease-fire has become a reality. However, we cannot hide our concern over the continued state of no peace and no war and over the possibility of renewed outbreak of hostitilites. Steps leading to the termination of the state of war and to settling all the attendant grievances and defusing the resulting aggravations have not yet been completed. We truly feel that Iraq is prepared to meet its obligations with regard to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 in accordance with the August 1988 agreement. Iraq has demonstrated its goodwill and readiness to participate in the making of a just and lasting peace in that region.

We hope that Iran, a country bound to the Arabs by considerable historical and spiritual links, will take a clear stand for peace. We wish that Iran would seek to establish normal and good relations with its Arab neighbors, and above all with Iraq, so that Arab-Iranian ties will be restored to their normal place, the place dictated by history and geography as well as by common interests and perils.

As for Lebanon, a bloody tragedy has been unraveling for years, the news of which has caused us much pain and sorrow. We believe that it is necessary to put an end to the suffering of the Lebanese people. It is also necessary to confront the threats to Lebanon's national and regional unity. [sentence as heard] This goal will not be realized until all forms of occupation and foreign intervention in Lebanese internal affairs are ended and all restraints hampering independent decisionmaking in that country are removed. Lebanon's sovereignty and its right of free choice should be respected and all symptoms of partition which have appeared in that country during the past years of tribulation should be eradicated.

Therefore, we support the honest efforts exerted by the Arab tripartite committee to achieve these goals. We hope that these efforts will be fruitful and will lead to decisive steps during the coming few weeks. A collapse of these efforts would entail the most serious consequences for all parties whether they realize this or not.

Mr President, I hardly need to reiterate our total support and firm backing for the United Nations and our commitment to its charter, goals, and principles. The UN principles have become a beacon for our peoples. These principles have defined the framework governing our international and regional moves. This is particularly true with the OAU which was founded to rid Africa of exploitation and domination, and to establish equality among individuals and states regardless of how power and resources are distributed among them. The OAU seeks to promote cooperation and fraternity among African countries which are faced with the same perils and challenges. The OAU has a humane and noble message which it seeks to spread. It calls for conduct based on the respect of ideals and ethics, for the respect of other people's rights, for discarding any notions of superiority and practices of discrimination among human beings, and for closer cooperation among all nations.

Third World countries, along with other world countries, have faith in the United Nations and appreciation for its role. Third World countries are looking with hope and aspiration to the future of coexistence on this planet. These countries are determined to follow their quest for peace, to mobilize their resources for the cause of development and progress, and to direct their energies to the establishment of a secure and a stable world that will open the doors of hope for coming generations.

Systematic and objective efforts, a confident outlook, faith in the mankind's common future, and a commitment to laws and conventions are what we need to build a better future, a future of freedom and peace, of glory and civilization. We have to think hard and work harder so that

right may triumph over might and dialogue may be conducted by words and not guns. May God give us all success. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be with you.

Mubarak Meets Foreign Officials in New York

Soviet Foreign Minister

NC2909223289 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2210 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] New York, 29 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York this evening. The 45-minute meeting dealt with the ongoing efforts to promote the peace process and bring about a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue within the framework of Egypt's 10-point plan. This dialogue will be a step toward understanding between the two parties to the dispute.

MENA has learned that Shevardnadze showed full understanding of President Mubarak's viewpoint. Part of the discussion was held in Russian, which President Mubarak speaks.

Israeli Foreign Minister

NC2909210289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in New York today. After the meeting, Arens said that he and Mubarak discussed the developments in the situation and Egypt's efforts to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. He added that President Mubarak is doing his utmost to achieve peace in the region.

Afterward, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also received Moshe Arens.

Meets Arens, Phones Shamir

NC2909225089 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2120 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] New York, 29 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens tonight. During the meeting, which lasted approximately 1 hour, they discussed the developments in the situation and Egypt's efforts to promote peace and hold an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

After the meeting, Arens said that the talks were very important with regard to the peace process. He added that President Mubarak is doing his utmost to achieve peace in the region.

MENA has learned that a telephone conversation took place between President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon. President Mubarak spoke with Shamir about the situation in the area in general and the need to push the peace process forward and hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as an effective step on the road to a political settlement. President Mubarak also congratulated Shamir on the Jewish New Year.

'Abd-al-Majid on Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue

NC3009221089 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2007 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Excerpts] New York, 30 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President George Bush, which is due to take place in Washington on Monday, as being of primary importance. He added that the meeting would set the pace for efforts in the coming phase.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid told Egyptian radio and television correspondents visiting the United States that the U.S. position on the Middle East was clearly defined in remarks made by President Bush after his meeting with President Mubarak in Washington last April. On that occasion, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said, President Bush spoke out in favor of ending the Israeli occupation, exchanging land for peace, and ensuring the political rights of the Palestinian people, as well as guaranteeing Israel's security. Egypt regards these points announced by President Bush as vital, 'Abd-al-Majid asserted.

He went on to say that he believes the upcoming meeting between Mubarak and Bush will be held in the same spirit as previous meetings. He noted that the events which have taken place since the last meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Bush make us look to peace in a way which we hope is optimistic. However, he added, our optimism is combined with caution.

Asked if one may expect a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to take place in the near future, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that our position is one of guarded optimism. He added that Egypt is aiming in this direction, in coordination with the Palestinian brothers,and he stressed the need for reciprocity on Israel's part. [passage omitted]

Concerning Mubarak's meeting with Shim'on Peres, Israel's finance minister and Labor Party leader, and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, of the Likud bloc, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the talks centered on the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and how to get it started, in light of the recent visit to Cairo by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that Rabin was representing both wings of the Israeli coalition government. He added that both Peres and Arens will evidently discuss the talks with the Israeli Government as a whole when they go back to Israel, and expressed the hope that the Israeli Government would decide to promote the peace process in a serious way.

'Abd-al-Majid was asked to comment on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement that if the Israeli Cabinet rejects Egypt's 10 points, matters will have to go back to the planning and policy design stage. He replied

that during his meeting with James Baker the discussion centered on the 10 points and the question of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

'Abd-al-Majid added that the tripartite meeting which he held with Baker and Moshe Arens was devoted to a discussion of all aspects of the peace process, the 10 points, and the importance of peace to the region. He described the meeting as useful and positive.

'Abd-al-Majid said that Baker's statements indicate a positive U.S. position which Egypt encourages on the ground that the United States is a partner in the peace process.

French Paper Interviews President Mubarak

NC2709172189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1038 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Paris, 27 Sep (MENA)—In an interview published in today's issue of the French newspaper LE FIGARO, President Husni Mubarak said that during his visit to Paris, which starts today, he will brief French President Francois Mitterrand on recent Middle East developments as well as on consultations concerning the Palestinian problem and the conflict in Lebanon.

Asked about developments in Lebanon in light of the acceptance of General Michel 'Awn, prime minister of the Lebanese military government, of the peace plan for Lebanon, President Mubarak told LE FIGARO that the Arab committee aims to resolve the Lebanese crisis by establishing a legitimate Lebanese government. The president added that the committee seeks to pave the road for political reforms in Lebanon.

President Mubarak said that a process has been devised for resolving the Lebanese crisis, which includes the Lebanese parliament's meeting, selecting a new president of the Republic, and undertaking constitutional reforms. A new Lebanese government will then be formed to negotiate with Syria over the presence of the Syrians or their withdrawal from Lebanon.

Asked how useful was France's dispatch of several navy ships to the Lebanese shores, knowing that most of these ships were quietly withdrawn later on, he said: The Americans sent their fleet to the region and when this did not lead to the desired results, they withdrew it. The president stated that the dispatch of French Navy ships was not motivated by military considerations, but to represent psychological support. He noted that France has connections with many Lebanese groups and has a real influence in that country.

Asked how crucial French support to Egyptian efforts to stimulate the Middle East peace process could possibly be if France's resources are compared with the leverage wielded by the two superpowers, President Mubarak told LE FIGARO: It is wrong to belittle the importance of France. France has the means to help in consultations concerning the Palestinian problem and Lebanon.

President Mubarak added: I do not want to go into details, for everything depends on what the French tell me in the talks and on how willing they are to help. President Mubarak noted that France is a country of great importance, being a major European country and an influential EC member.

Replying to a question about the prospects of success for the Arab tripartite committee in Lebanon, President Mubarak said: We want an independent Lebanon. This country will restore its legitimacy once a legitimate government is formed there.

Referring to the Syrian presence in Lebanon, the president pointed out that, after they regain their freedom, if the Lebanese decide to coordinate with Syria or if they conclude a friendly agreement with it, this is their own business.

Asked if he believes the formation of a joint front comprising Western countries against Syria will expedite the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, he noted that each country has its own interests in the region. He said that should a government decide to impose economic restrictions on Syria, another government will hastily sneak through the back door.

President Mubarak stressed the need for all foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon, including the Syrians, Israelis, and Iranians, and noted that the Lebanese wish to be free and want foreign forces to leave their country.

Asked about the timetable for the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon if the Arab tripartite committee efforts succeed, he said this requires some time as the problem is now 15 years old and the Syrians will not leave overnight.

On the credibility of the forthcoming session of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, whose members have not been reelected for 14 years, the president said: If this is how you think, it means there is no hope for reaching a solution. However, there exists a potential challenge: it is that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies actually approves reforms or elects a legitimate government able to negotiate with Damascus.

President Mubarak emphasized that all of this is possible even with the presence of the Syrians.

Replying to another question, the president affirmed that Lebanese military government head General Michel 'Awn cannot be ignored in the efforts to reach a conclusive agreement on Lebanon's crisis. He noted that 'Awn represents one of the fundamental elements in Lebanon and that he has his own military forces.

Regarding the outcome of Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent talks in Cairo on Egypt's 10 points concerning elections in West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's refusal to include a number of Palestinians from outside [the occupied territories] in a Palestinian delegation

taking part in negotiations with an Israeli delegation, the president asserted: If we want peace we must be reasonable and practical.

He said that some Palestinians from outside the territories must be accepted as members of the Palestinian delegation and emphasized that the Palestinians inside will never agree to negotiate with the Israeli Government if Palestinians from outside are excluded.

On whether Shamir's acceptance of the participation of Palestinians from outside actually means that he accepts the PLO, President Mubarak affirmed that the PLO exists both inside and outside. He noted that it is very difficult to distinguish between those who are affiliated with the PLO and those who are not because the PLO exists everywhere.

Replying to a question on Shamir's stand toward the principle of land for peace included in the Egyptian 10-point plan, the president said: The Palestinians must be given a land and we can cite UN Security Council Resolution 242 of November 1967.

He went on to say: The Israelis have said before they refuse to talk to the Palestinians for as long as they reject this resolution. The Palestinians have accepted it now.

The president was asked if he pins hope on the collapse of the ruling coalition in Israel between the Likud bloc and the Labor Party. He said: I do not want to interfere in Israel's internal affairs. Frankly, the disintegration of the ruling coalition in Israel will only result in the delay of the peace process, when new elections, new government, and new policy must be waited for. He noted that this will cause additional delay for at least a year.

Commenting on the aim of his visit to the United States, President Mubarak told the LE FIGARO that he will first address the United Nations in his capacity as OAU chairman and then he will spend a day in Washington, where he will discuss with U.S. President George Bush ways to implement Egypt's 10 points and how to persuade the Israelis and Palestinians to sit at the negotiating table.

On the role he hopes the U.S. will play, he said the Americans should explain the situation to their Israeli friends and try to convince them.

Commenting on the Soviet role in the Middle East issue, the president noted that the two superpowers are holding discussions on the Middle East and said that there exists a U.S.-Soviet coordination in this respect and that none of them is working unilaterally.

Concluding the interview, President Mubarak said the Soviet Union is not unaware of what the United States is doing in the region.

Ghali Notes French Support for Mubarak Plan

NC2709104389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0724 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Sep (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that France supports the 10 points proposed by President Husni Mubarak to resolve the Palestinian issue. France, he added, has expressed its readiness to exert diplomatic efforts to promote Mubarak's initiative.

In an interview published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' today, Dr Ghali said that Israel has not rejected Mubarak's initiative, but merely expressed some reservations. Meanwhile, there is a positive response from the PLO and the Palestinian leaders, Ghali added.

Dr Ghali said that East-West rapprochement is instrumental in any solution of the Middle East problem in general and the Palestinian issue in particular.

The minister of state noted that President Mubarak will discuss the Middle East crisis and debt problem during his upcoming visits to Paris and Washington.

Dr Ghali expressed the hope that the current truce in Lebanon would lead to stability in that country.

Dr Ghali mentioned that a committee of African foreign ministers has been instructed by the OAU to assist President Mubarak in his efforts to resolve the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute. The committee, Ghali said, will submit its recommendations, which will be the basis for any future action Mubarak takes, next month.

AL-AHRAM Comments on Mubarak 10-Point Plan

NC2309205789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2012 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has stressed that the Egyptian 10 points proposed by President Husni Mubarak are in fact merely 10 questions and that they were not a plan or initiative as President Mubarak himself said.

In its editorial in Sunday's edition, the paper said these questions require explanatory answers.

The paper emphasized that the rejection of these queries by Yitzhaq Shamir, Israeli prime minister and leader of the Likud bloc, who alleged that they are against the Israeli initiative, is a great fallacy.

The paper expressed the belief that the Likud will naturally reject these queries after Likud leader Shamir's rejection. However, the paper noted that this does not constitute a rejection by the [Israeli] government but rather a rejection by the party bloc.

The paper pointed out that this rejection will reflect on the current coalition in Israel and that it is contingent upon the developments within Israel.

Tunisian Foreign Minister on Libya, Ties

NC2609125189 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0100 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh has said that Egyptian-Tunisian relations are growing steadily and getting firmer each day. He described these ties as excellent and flawless. He said that the Tunisian officials have the same aims as the brothers in Egypt and that regular consultations are bringing the two countries closer.

In an exclusive interview to appear in the 26 September issue of AL-AHRAM, Escheikh mentioned that in the context of the ongoing cooperation, the Higher Tunisian-Egyptian Committee, co-chaired by the prime ministers of both countries, will meet soon in Tunis. [passage omitted]

Escheikh said that meeting of the Arab Maghreb countries in Libya during the 1 September festivities was a good opportunity to exchange opinions about increased cooperation in the framework of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Concering reports in Tunisian newspapers of reconciliation between President Husni Mubarak and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Tunisian foreign minister said that Tunisia welcomes rapprochement between any two Arab countries and is pleased with the Egyptian-Libyan move toward rapprochement. Tunisia, he said, sees it as its duty to help bring about an Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement if it has the opportunity to do so.

A question concerned an issue raised by certain quarters in order to cast a shadow on Tunisian-Egyptian relations and Egypt's return to the Arab League—that is, whether the Arab League headquarters will remain in Tunis or return to Cairo. Escheikh said that certain questions have been raised in this regard. Reiterating that Tunisian-Egyptian relations are strong, Escheikh added that the venue of the Arab League headquarters is not a matter to be decided by Tunisia or Egypt alone but by consensus among Arab leaders. He added that this question will never be a cause of friction between Egypt and Tunis. I tell those who wish to upset our relations that Egypt and Tunisia have come of age and know well where their interests lie. Furthermore, it is beyond the power of any individual country to decide on a matter like this, which belongs in the domain of collective decisionmaking by all league members. The headquarters may be relocated to Cairo or elsewhere without any resulting friction between Tunisia and Egypt, not with the kind of mutual understanding that we have, Escheikh said. [passage omitted]

Oman

Minister Meets PDRY, Iranian Foreign Ministers

JN2909145089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] His Excellency Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, met in New York today with His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], at his excellency's place of residence. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

His excellency the minister of state for foreign affairs also met with His Excellency Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. During the meeting, they discussed issues on the agenda of the current session of the UN General Assembly, bilateral relations, and matters of interest to the two countries and the region.

These meetings come as part of the side discussions which Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah is holding on the sidelines of the 44th session of the UN General Assembly.

PDRY

YSP Secretary Meets French Communist Delegation

EA2909115489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bayd, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, had a meeting in his office this morning with a delegation from the French Communist Party [PCF], led by Comrade Gaston Plissonnier, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee. At the start of the meeting, the brother secretary general welcomed Comrade Plissonnier and his delegation, which conveyed greetings from Comrade Georges Marchais, secretary general of the PCF. During a discussion with the delegation, the brother secretary general praised the development of cooperation between the YSP and the PCF. He asserted that the party leadership was striving to develop cooperation with the PCF through tangible practical measures. The brother secretary general also briefed the delegation on the comprehensive political or economic reform measures being taken in our country.

For his part, Comrade Plissonnier expressed pleasure at the friendly reception accorded him. He praised the achievements made in Democratic Yemen and the efforts being made by the party and state leadership to develop the economy and exploit mineral resources in general and oil resources in particular.

At the end of the meeting, the brother secretary general charged Comrade Plissonnier with greetings for Comrade Georges Marchais. The meeting was attended by Brother Fadil Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee.

Libyan Delegation Arrives in Aden 27 Sep

EA2809140189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Brother Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Hamidi, member of the Revolution Command Council in Libya, arrived in Aden this afternoon at the head of a high-level delegation, on an official visit to our country during which he will deliver a message to Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Peoples Council, from his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution.

Brother Al-Khuwaylidi al-Hamidi said in a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY that during his visit, he will meet a number of officials in our country with whom he will discuss bilateral relations and matters of mutual concern, particularly those which relate to the hostile challenges to the people of our Arab nation from the Zionists and the imperialists. He paid homage to the martyrs of the Yemeni people, who fought to defeat British colonialism, expressing his pride at this great historical chapter in the history of the people of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

JN0110144289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Doha, 1 Oct (WAKH)—Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani has received an oral message from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar a-Qadhdhafi on Arab developments and bilateral cooperation.

The message was conveyed by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Hamidi, member of Libya's Revolution Command Council, when he was received by the amir today. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Statement Condemns Iranian 'Provocations'

LD2909181989 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Commenting on the biased information campaigns which were and are still being propagated by the Iranian media against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, an official source has made the following statement to SPA:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has followed the biased campaigns propagated by the various Iranian media following the signing of the just and legitimate verdict of punishment against 16 people who were convicted by the judiciary in the Kingdom because of committing the crime

of causing three explosions in Holy Mecca on Monday, 11 July 1989, and on the night of Monday, 18 July 1989. These explosions shook the consciences of the Muslims all over the world.

We, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are not surprised by these campaigns which the Iranian rulers launch against this country now and again. However, what did surprise us this time is the Iranian officials' zeal in defending the murderers and criminals who committed a horrible act at the most holy and sacred places on earth. Their act was and will remain the cause of the displeasure of Muslims everywhere who absolutely welcomed and supported the legal sentences passed on those criminals.

We thought that the Iranian officials would support sentences passed by the just Islamic Shari'ah, just like all Islamic states and peoples. Indeed, immediately after the Saudi officials' announcement of the explosions, Iranian officials said that Iran vehemently condemned such criminal acts, and called on the Saudi Government to bring them to court for trial and to subject them to capital punishment. But the Tehran rulers who fell many times in a series of contradictions—whose reasons we are aware of more than anyone else—have resumed their provocations, threats, and attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Despite the fact that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not accuse any state, [word indistinct] party, or side of committing this awful crime, or of preparing it, the Iranian officials opposed the judiciary's just verdict, and considered the carrying out of God's verdict on criminals as an action against Iran and its ruling system, as their various media stated.

We can only wonder about the truth of the hidden motives behind this reckless defense and that large-scale campaign against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, against fair justice, and against God's law in God's land.

For the record, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not and will not forsake its objective and committed way of dealing with the provocative and biased campaigns. It deems itself above entering with Iran or anyone else in quarrels in which this nation has no interest. However, the Kingdom deems it its duty to remind people of the series of disgraceful Iranian acts as follows:

1) At precisely 0650 on Friday, 7 July 1986, an Iranian airliner landed at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport in Jeddah. During a search of passenger's suitcases, customs officers discovered that the bottoms of 95 suitcases contained explosives of [word indistinct] type, weighing 51 kg. Investigations with the leader of the (?group), Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad (Pahlavi) admitted that Reza [name indistinct] who belongs to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, had handed him the suitcases and told him that he would instruct him later on how to use the contents. When he asked him about the objective, he was told that the aim was to preserve Iran's interests abroad, and that in his capacity as leader of the group he was able to take the suitcases into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and told him that he would retrieve them from him later. When the investigater asked him about the purpose of bringing these explosives into the holy lands, he replied: I do not know. Ask the Iranian Government.

The Kingdom treated that incident on the spot in a rational, calm, and composed way, so that the announcement of the news would not affect the pilgrims to God's house, and out of the Kingdom's hope that the Tehran rulers would understand the dimensions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's noble stand when it preferred to silence the matter, but they are far from understanding it.

2) In 1987, to be more accurate, on Friday 31 July of that year, some Iranian demonstrators caused a riot in Mecca, carried out acts of sabotage, and started fires after blocking the passage to the holy mosque. They also obstructed and stopped traffic and raised banners and portraits. When the Saudi security authorities realized where they were headed and what their intentions were, they prevented them from reaching and taking over the holy mosque. They were planning (?and hoping) to do this as they shouted through their loudspeakers: To the holy mosque, to the holy mosque. God then sowed fear in their hearts and they retreated broken and shamefaced. The ranks at the rear, composed of women and elderly people, fell on top of the front rows, which led to the death and injury of several of them.

The Saudi authorities had then disclosed all the details and revealed to the entire world these hostile and subversive acts by the Tehran rulers. As a result, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia received unanimous Arab, Muslim, and international support for all the measures it had taken for protecting the lives and securing the safety of the pilgrims.

This criminal act was followed by another aggression carried out by a group calling itself the hizballah group, which is known for its close links with the Tehran rulers, when at 0745 on Saturday 1 August 1987, a group of Iranian students stormed the Saudi Embassy in Tehran, followed by two other groups. This criminal incident led to the martyrdom of the embassy's Saudi attache, (Sa'd al-Ghamidi), after he was attacked and a request to send a Saudi medical team to transfer him to the Kingdom to give him adequate treatment was turned down.

Despite all this, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia still adopted a reasonable and wise stand, while the entire world expressed its total rejection of the irresponsible crimes perpetrated by the Tehran rulers.

At a news conference held in Jeddah on 25 August 1987, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, refuted Iran's allegations and [words indistinct] before representatives of international newspapers and news agencies and exposed the true hostile intentions harbored by the Tehran rulers against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In order to express its indignation and condemnation, the Muslim nation, through the 17th Islamic Conference, which brought together the foreign ministers of the Islamic

Conference Organization's states in Amman, the Jordanian capital, on 21-25 March 1988, unanimously agreed on the following:

First, to condemn the sabotage and riots caused by Iranian pilgrims in Holy Mecca during the 1987 pilgrimage season.

Second, to express total solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and full support for the measures it took to provide a suitable atmosphere to enable the pilgrims to perform their rites in security and humility, to ensure that the holy mosque's sanctity was not desecrated and the Muslims' feelings were not offended, and to prevent all disturbances in the holy places which harm the pilgrims' security and safety and the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Third, to stress the right of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, proceeding from its responsibility to protect and maintain order and security and protect the holy places' sanctity and the pilgrims' safety, to take all preventive measures deemed necessary to prevent the repetition of riots, the sowing of discord, and any other wrong practices which are incompatible with Islamic teachings, including the nonexploitation of the season of pilgrimage to demonstrate, go on marches, and raise banners in deference to the holy place's sanctity, out of respect for the pilgrimage rites and for the preservation of the Muslims' unity and cohesion.

Fourth, to call on the member-states to cooperate with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the implementation of this resolution.

As a means of stressing its seriousness in dealing with a united and stern stand against the troublemaking by the rulers of Tehran, the conference endorsed all the measures to take to decide on a specific allocation of pilgrims represented in the percentage of the country's population divided by the number of Muslims in the world. This was to be a temporary measure until the Kingdom completed the huge establishments which would absorb the largest possible number of pilgrims around the holy place in Mecca.

The conference urged all member-countries of the organization to cooperate with the Kingdom in every way to enable it to take the appropriate measures to achieve equality for all pilgrims, safeguard the performance of their rites, and provide all means of comfort for them.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we used to believe that the Tehran rulers would reasses their position after this clear Islamic stand, adhere to what had been decided, refrain from going against Islamic consensus, and give up scheming conspiracies, intrigues, and inciting problems. However, they continued to launch noxious campaigns against the Kingdom. They did not stop at that; they prevented (?their citizens) from performing pilgrimage in 1987. They practiced [word indistinct] and laid down numerous conditions, first and foremost by committing the Kingdom to accept 150,000 pilgrims, contrary to the decision made by the Islamic countries' foreign ministers' conference in Amman, in addition to demanding that they should be allowed to administer pilgrimage rites, organizing demonstrations, and hailing the symbols of the Iranian regime [words indistinct], practicing some heretical acts, lies, and forbidden acts, and steering pilgrimage away from the objectives prescribed by God.

When the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not respond to the conditions and did not heed to threats in order to protect the Islamic sanctities from recklessness and to guard Muslims' lives, the Tehran rulers continued to harm the Kingdom, its leadership, and its people while their newspapers and other media were filled with threats to the Kingdom. Despite that, convoys of pilgrims marched on in security and calm, and 1987 ended in great success with God's help, generosity, and kindness.

Then 1988 came and they repeated the whole thing, threatening in a provocative way and thinking that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia might retreat from implementing the resolution passed and unanimously endorsed by Islamic countries' foreign ministers at their 17th conference. Now, [words indistinct] what took place in 1986. In a letter published in the Iranian newspaper ETTELA'AT on Tuesday 16 June 1989, Ahmad Khomeyni said that Iran had dispatched explosives to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the 1986 pilgrimage season. While Ahmad Khomeyni admitted that that kind of criminal act had been carried out without hindrance and sometimes had met with failure, Montazeri described as wrong the smuggling of explosives into the Kingdom by (?infiltrators) belonging to the Revolutionary Guards. He said: They brought us shame in the pilgrimage season.

On the evening on Monday 10 July 1989, two explosions took place in Holy Mecca; one on the road leading to the holy mosque and the second on the bridge adjacent to the mosque.

The following day a security source said that the two explosions killed a Pakistani and wounded 16 others. Another explosion took place in holy Mecca after midnight on Monday 14 December 1988 in an area where no one was present on the mount of Qubays, which is near the holy mosque. This explosion did not cause any human casualties or material losses.

While we were busy following up the incident and its aftermath, and while we were eager to cover all the circumstances which would help us apprehend the culprits, at that time and precisely the morning of the day when the two earlier explosions took place we met and followed numerous statements by the Iranian officials all of which rotate around ane thing; namely the flagrant allegation that it was the Saudi Government which engineered the explosions.

Not only this but they went so far as to demand that the Saudi authorities arrest the criminals, bring them to justice, and apply the Islamic Shari'ah against them.

We were not surprised that the Tehran rulers would make such a pronouncement at that time. However, we were

very surprised that they of all people would deny their connection with the incident despite the fact that no one in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accused Iran or anyone else of committing the dastardly crime, to which history has never recorded any parallel.

It is not part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's policy, throughout its long history, to run ahead or speak haphazardly or hastily make accusations in all directions. It is not in the Kingdom's nature, nor is it its custom to talk about grave matters such as these without having a basis of facts and (?firm and accurate) information. Therefore, the Kingdom did not pay attention to the frenzied campaigns while the tumultuous Islamic anger continued to rage everywhere, denouncing and jeopardizing the lives of Muslim pilgrims near the ancient House of God. The Kingdom has been and still is fully convinced that it is impossible for a man who believes in God and in the day of judgment or a man who has an iota of faith to commit such a criminal act. [Sentence indistinct]. Instead of (?countering) those frenzied campaigns [words indistinct], the Kingdom's security organs painstakingly studied the circumstances surrounding the incident in all its aspects, deeply and in the shadow of crucial circumstances at the place and time of the incident. God's grace and mercy are great toward those who visit his house. For He enabled the Criminal Investigation Department men to arrest those who committed those crimes in a record short time.

The specialized organs began their investigations. It is no secret if we say that the Saudi authorities managed to arrive at the complete truth as soon as they caught the criminals without difficulty or much effort. This was the result of the element of surprise and speed which astonished the criminals as they could not imagine it could be so. They expresed this when they were making their confessions. They never thought the Saudi security authorities were able to (?know their hideouts) and [words indistinct]. They were very sorry for the crimes they committed. [Sentence indistinct].

In view of the fact that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a state which has been and still is based on God's book and the sayings of the Prophet, and because it adheres to God's law and [word indistinct] in matters such as this, all papers concerning investigations and the perpetrators were referred to the shari'ah court to be considered from the perspective of Islamic law. The perpetrators recorded their statements and the judges pronounced God's sentence on them after giving each one of them complete freedom to defend himself. Then the case was referred to the appeal body and later to the Supreme Judicial Council, the highest judicial authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which in turn endorsed the implementation of the sentences pronounced against the perpetrators according to Islamic law.

Let us now pause to remind the Tehran rulers, who have followed with us and the whole world the confessions of the perpetrators on television, of the following facts:

First, the judiciary exercised its full responsibilities (?on the basis) of God's just shari'ah, and did not pronounce its ruling on the crime, its results, and circumstance only on the basis of the investigations carried out by the competent security authorities.

Second, all the perpetrators confessed to the judges, after swearing on God's book, to tell nothing but the truth and not to shelter others, whether individuals, groups, or states.

Third, the perpetrators were in the best of psychological and physical shape when they spoke to the world, without having been harmed, and they revealed the facts spontaneously. Their statements did not contradict each other in view of the fact that the circumstances of the crime, its instruments, its organizers, and executors were the same.

Fourth, the judiciary in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has absolutely no authority over it. In light of that, the role of the administrative authority is confined to the carrying out of the sentences pronounced by the Islamic judiciary.

Thus, God's order and judgment were carried out against those whose crimes were categorically proven, while judicial sentences were issued to flog and imprison other for varying periods according to the extent of their participation in the crime. Because God's just judgment distinguishes between the accused according to the nature of their crimes, the just judges in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not hesitate to find nine people and four others before them innocent, after the court found that the evidence presented against them was not enough, and ruled that the accused are innocent until the charge is proven.

We, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—the country chosen by God to become [words indistinct] of Muslims and the place of revelation, take pride in a judiciary that is just and correct in its rulings, because its rulings are based on the shari'ah principles, the sources of which are God's book and the sayings of his messenger.

The Islamic world responded, and is still responding, to the carrying out of God's judgment against the perpetrators which support and acclaim, because the objective of the perpetrators was to harm the Islamic faith, kill innocent people, and expose the security of God's holy house to danger. After all this could a sane person believe the doubts cast by the Tehran rulers on the justice of the Saudi judiciary?

The truth that the rulers of Tehran are unable to face is that none of them imagined that the Saudi security forces would uncover the threads of the crime, arrest the criminals, and reveal the planners of that crime. Thus, the statements by Iranian officials recalling the explosions were loaded with confidence and assurance that the criminals will escape the hand of justice and, consequently, that they would not face the court's verdict and all its implications.

The difficult position which some of the rulers of Iran found themselves in since the implementation of God's judgment against the criminals confirms that the Iranian authorities are continuing to ignore the facts and to persist in being wrong. What happened in the holy city of Mecca following the hajj of 1988 is, by any yardstick, a crime and, thus, what the criminals embarked upon deserves the implementation of God's judgment against them. We had (?not) expected the rulers of Tehran to agree with us in that, as shown by their statements following the incident. Thus, their language did not change, [words indistinct] and they accused the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia because of its implementation of God's law and carrying out his regulation.

The extreme contradiction and panic which have lately begun to show on the rulers of Tehran lead us to ask this question: Why did some Iranian officials tremble and their positions become contradictory in respect to what they were asking of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after the incident and what they are now talking about after the implementation of God's judgment against the criminals? We are asking while we are fully aware that no one other than the Tehran rulers themselves has an answer to this question.

However, once again we would like to confirm the following:

First, that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not under any circumstances accept any type of threat because it is a fully sovereign state which has the right to take legal and organizational measures on the other—measures which it deems appropriate for its security, stability, and the well-being of citizens and visitors.

Second, that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia rejects all flagrant attempts to interfere in its internal affairs or to affect its security, the security of God's pilgrims or that of the holy places. It warns against any attempt on the part of anyone to harm Islamic places in the holy cities of Mecca and al-Madinah, or to affect the security of Saudi citizens or residents.

Third, in spite of its disinclination for confrontations, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasizes that it will not hesitate to defend its holy places or itself, it will not squander its rights, and it will not allow anyone to behave toward it with excess.

Fourth, while announcing this, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses that it knows its interests very well, knows how to make its own decisions, and knows how to defend its positions and decisions as a state in possession of an independent will. At the same time, the Kingdom is still hoping that the Tehran rulers will regain their senses and return to the Islamic ranks as an element of construction and development.

Fifth, while reserving for itself all rights to behave toward, and deal with, everyone in a way that suits it, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is prepared to respond to every positive initiative, the sincerity and good intentions of which it is assured. The Kingdom is well aware that the destiny of the Islamic motherland is to accomplish Islamic solidarity, Islamic unity, construction and production, to the benefit of the best motherland given to mankind! [passage omitted]

Interior Minister on Arrest of Kuwaiti Shiites

PM2909114689 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3 Oct 89 p 18

[Report on interview with Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz by 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad al-Rashid; date, place not given]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with the chief editor, Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz said that the arrest [of the executed Shiite group] did not occur by accident. He added: It happened with God's help and thanks to the efforts of the men of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's general investigation department. It was the part played by the investigators from the very beginning that uncovered them.

[Al-Rashid] Did any of the plotters manage to escape?

[Prince Nayif] No one was able to escape.

[Al-Rashid] As the criminals were Kuwaitis, did you acquaint the Kuwaitis with the case file?

[Prince Nayif] Yes.

[Al-Rashid] Did any Arab circles express readiness to cooperate in the arrest of the criminals?

[Prince Nayif] No, and none was asked to do so.

[Al-Rashid] Do you believe that the fact that all the criminals were Shiites could put Shiite Muslims in general in the position of the accused?

[Prince Nayif] That never entered our minds.

[Al-Rashid] In the criminals' confession reference was made to an Iranian part in hatching the plot. On the basis of the information at your disposal, do you believe that the Iranian state was involved, or was the plot hatched by some conflicting factions?

[Prince Nayif] The Iranian Government perhaps knows the answer to that better than us.

[Al-Rashid] Some of the plotters said in their confessions that others were deeply involved in hatching the plot. Is there any intention of pursuing them?

[Prince Nayif] Anything that concerns the Kingdom's security will be pursued by us.

Baghdad Denies Pullout, POW Exchange Proposed

JN0210063189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] The Iraqi Government yesterday officially denied the Iranian delegation's announcement at the UN General Assembly in New York that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar had recently proposed a simultaneous withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Iranian territory and the exchange of all Iraqi and Iranian prisoners of war.

'Aziz Arrives in New York for UN Meetings

JN2909061389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here today.

Tariq 'Aziz will participate in the meetings of the UN General Assembly's 44th session and deliver Iraq's speech on 5 October.

During his visit, Tariq 'Aziz will meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and a number of foreign ministers taking part in the UN General Assembly meetings.

Meets UK, French Ministers

JN2909174689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] The United Nations, 29 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with British Foreign Secretary John Major and French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas.

An INA correspondent in New York quoted Foreign Ministry sources as saying that the talks centered on bilateral relations and efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for ending the Iraq-Iran conflict.

The sources added that Tariq 'Aziz's talks with the British foreign secretary and French foreign affairs minister touched on developments in the Lebanese problem and the Middle East conflict in general. They added that the talks also dealt with topics on the UN General Assembly agenda.

Tariq 'Aziz is expected to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly next Thursday [5 October].

Syria Reportedly Sending Gliders to Lebanon

JN3009182889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] The Syrian regime has moved small glider planes equipped with strong engines into Lebanese territory. The planes can be used against various targets and centers in Lebanon. The newspaper AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI issued in Beirut today says that Syrian Colonel Muhsin Sallum, the official in charge of security at Beirut international airport, is supervising the delivery of these planes to pro-Syrian organizations and elements.

Iraq Reports Israelis Violated Syrian Airspace

JN2809180089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Report by Hasan al-Kashif from Baghdad]

[Text] Iraq has decided to disband five [illegible]ary divisions by mid-October. The decision was made during the meeting of the Iraqi military command. Iraq had decided last June to disband the I Special Army Corps. Thus, Iraq has demobilized approximately 300,000 soldiers since the cease-fire.

An informed Iraqi source said today that Israeli air formations violated Syrian airspace on 20 September. A formation crossed from the Golan area; another formation crossed from an area northwest Damascus; and a third formation crossed from south of Damascus, moved to the east, and turned to cross Jordanian and then Saudi airspace before returning to the occupied Arab territory.

The decision to disband the five divisions is an Iraqi message affirming Baghdad's adherence to peace. And the statement on the Israeli air activity is an Iraqi message to Israel confirming Iraq's vigilance as well as the effectiveness of its early warning planes, the AWACS, manufactured by Iraq and which are now in service in the Iraqi Air Force. The Iraqi AWACS is called 'Adnan-1.

Oil Minister Returns From Montreal, Geneva

JN2909131089 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 29, INA—Mr. 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim, minister of oil, returned here this morning after heading the Iraqi delegation to the international energy conference held in Montreal, Canada, during the period 17-22 of this month.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim also participated in the ministerial auditing committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) held in Geneva recently and resulted in the agreement to increase OPEC daily production to 20.5 million barrels a day.

Jasim Confers With Senegalese Culture Minister

JN3009124489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim met with Senegalese Culture Minister Moustapha Ka today. During the meeting, the culture and information minister reviewed Iraq's firm, peaceful, and principled positions as well as its continuous endeavors to achieve a comprehensive and just peace with Iran.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim pointed out that Iran's rejection of direct negotiations and its attempt to contain the international consensus on the need to achieve peace reiterate its expansionist ambitions in regard to Iraq and the Arab nation. The two sides also discussed ways to promote cultural and information cooperation.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN0110155689 Baghdad INA in English
1510 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 1, INA—Iraq and the Senegal signed a new educational, cultural and scientific program for the next three years, in accordance with the cultural cooperation agreement signed between the two countries in 1975.

The program was signed by Mr. Mundhir Ibrahim, minister of higher education, for the Iraqi side and Mr Moustapha Ka, minister of culture, for the Senegalese side.

The new program includes new means of cooperation among the two countries' universities and institutions, exchange of teachers, lecturers, fellowships and seconding of teachers.

The program also included the exchange of publications, teaching programs, providing scholarships by Iraqi schools and institutions to Senegalese students to study Arabic and other topics to be agreed on between the two sides as well as cooperation in the fields of culture, sports information and the participation in contests held in either country on national events.

Assembly Speaker Receives Indian Parliamentarian

JN2709150289 Baghdad INA in English
1325 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 27, INA—Mr Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, received today member of the Indian Parliament Tallid Khan [name as received] who is currently on a visit to Iraq to participate in the third Babylon international festival.

During the meeting, parliamentary relations and means of enhancing them were discussed.

Dailies on Decision To Disband Army Divisions

JN2909152889 Baghdad INA in English
1230 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 29, INA—The Iraqi dailies have hailed the decision taken by the General Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces to disband five Iraqi Army divisions which comes in line with Iraq's peaceful intentions towards the negotiations with Iran.

AL-THAWRAH daily said in an editorial today titled "Another Confident Step on the Way of Peace" that this move was linked with previous ones concerning demobilizing the Special First Army Corps and 303,211 troops between October 18, 1988 and June 30, 1989, suspending popular army enlistment, and [the] reconstruction southern Iraqi town of Basra and al-Faw.

The paper considered this string of measures to be expressing Iraq's abidance by its firm and principled stance towards realising just, permanent and comprehensive peace with Iran and in the region at large.

It added that the Iranian regime was still manoeuvring, procrastinating and abrogating the August 8, 1988 accord which led to a ceasefire and starting negotiations in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 598 as an over-all peace plan.

AL-THAWRAH said that despite that more than a year had passed since the ceasfire was proclaimed. The Iranian regime had not made any step on the way of peace while its attitudes and behaviours were suspicious and signalling that it did not comprehend the severe lessons of the war.

It pointed that the Iranian regime was still following selectivity in dealing with 598 and rejecting a comprehensive swap of prisoners of war.

The newspaper stated that the Iranian regime refused to enter direct and real negotiations with Iraq which meant that Iranian rulers did not respect to [as received] August 8 accord which was reached under the auspices of the UN secretary general.

The daily concluded that the Iranian side should understand clearly that its manoeuvres and selective policies were in vain.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said that Iraq had made a reduction in its army at a time Iran was airing threats.

It called on the Iranian rulers to start direct talks with Iraq to achieve peace according to the 598 resolution and turn the page of war and start living in peace.

The paper regarded the disbandment of the five Iraqi Army divisions as a new and great step on the way of minimizing the Iraqi Army after demobilizing the Special First Army Corps.

The daily went on saying that despite Iran's outspoken huge and aggressive stances, there had been no evidence that the Iranian regime had any good intentions or relinquished its hostile policy to go ahead with the peace process till the end.

AL-JUMHURIYAH pointed that the Iranian regime was still violating the August 8 agreement, laying obstacles on the way of implementing 598 and aiming at perpetuating the no-war-no-peace state between Iraq and Iran and in the region, in defiance that Iraq got a host of peaceful overtures and took measures in that direction. [sentence as received]

Arens, Mubarak Meet; Mubarak Phones Shamir

TA2909181789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] A few minutes ago Egyptian President Husni Mubarak phoned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during the former's meeting with Foreign Minister Arens in New York. The Egyptian president wished the prime minister a happy Rosh Hashanah, and said he does not want to cause the Israeli Government's disbandment but rather work with it in order to promote peace.

Our correspondent in New York, 'Oded Ben-'Ami, reports that Foreign Minister Arens explained to the Egyptian president that the Israeli Government objects to the PLO's inclusion in the political process. Minister Arens told our correspondent that in spite of differences Israel needs Egypt's assistance to advance the process. He said he hoped that as next week's Inner Cabinet session approaches, commonsense will have the upper hand and the unity government will continue to work on behalf of peace because it is the only one that can do that.

Earlier, it was reported that sources in Minister Arens' entourage were deeply disappointed by Mubarak's address to the UN General Assembly this evening. Our correspondent points out that Mubarak did not mention the plan to hold elections in the territories, and went to great lengths to emphasize that the PLO is the official representative of the Palestinians. The sources view these remarks as an Egyptian withdrawal from the positions which may have promoted the peace process.

Minister Arens will also confer this evening with his Egyptian counterpart 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. 'Abd-al-Majid is scheduled to hold a meeting with Secretary of State James Baker later today.

Arens Calls for Summit Between Mubarak, Shamir

TA2909122389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Sep 89 p A3

[Report on an interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by special correspondent Ran Dagoni on 28 September in New York]

[Excerpts] Explicit Egyptian consent to support the Israeli peace initiative could change the Likud's attitude toward the Egyptian president's 10-point plan. This is the implication in the remarks made by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in yesterday's special interview with MA'ARIV. Arens chose to devote most of the interview to a vigorous campaign for a summit meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. [passage omitted]

According to Arens, Israel feels that its relations with Ethiopia are improving. He added that the fact that no meeting between the Israeli and Ethiopian foreign ministers will take place this year does not reflect a deterioration in relations. On the contrary, an improvement in relations has been noted and is part of a continuing effort that will culminate in the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Peres 'Encouraged' by Meeting With Mubarak

TA2909141989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Upon returning from the United States this afternoon, Minister Shim'on Peres said he would do everything in his power to uphold the peace momentum. He added: It would be a fateful mistake to put off the process. Minister Peres went on to describe his point of view this way: We are not dealing with the question of Palestinian representation, but with the question of whether we can go ahead with the peace process.

According to Peres, the gap between Israel's positions and Mubarak's 10 points is far narrower than the gap between Israel's positions and those of Egyptian President al-Sadat when the latter came to Jerusalem. Mr Peres said he was encouraged by his meeting with Mubarak, in which the latter explained that his 10 points actually are the opening positions of the Palestinians for negotiations.

Shamir Warns of Danger in Negotiating With PLO

TA2909124389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that he will find it difficult to attend synagogue tomorrow with a tranquil mind and identify with the prayers of all the Israeli people without contemplating what we will be facing in the coming days.

[Begin Shamir recording] I do not want to exaggerate. I do not wish to cause sadness or lower anyone's spirit, but we cannot ignore reality. We are under attack. This is no surprise. We are talking about the fate of Eretz Yisra'el. In the past we dealt with certain areas on the front—today it is Eretz Yisra'el. We must be strong, impervious, and united. To repel this danger, we must remain committed to our principles.

There was a time, in this national unity government as well, when we warded off this peril that someone now wants to introduce as some legend which ostensibly contains a chance for peace and a solution: the international conference and that mythical London agreement whose precise nature nobody knows. Thank God we repelled that very tangible and real threat. Today a new and no less threatening danger has emerged. Contrary to all we decided upon jointly, some people are now trying either to tempt or coerce us into following the very path we rejected: the path of negotiations with the PLO which may very well lead us into something we will not countenance and will prevent with all our power—a Palestinian state. We are now facing this battle. Perhaps at the last moment someone will reconsider and retreat, but even if this does not happen, I want to say that there

will be no recourse from a determined stance with all its attendant conclusions. [end recording]

The prime minister added that this is the responsibility of the Likud. He asserted that this is not a matter of choice but an obligation. Therefore, he added, the Likud must be victorious in every political confrontation this year, and he hinted at the upcoming political clash in the Inner Cabinet. Shamir then spoke of the Histadrut elections so that it would be clear to the entire world that nothing can be achieved without the Likud, while on the other hand, nothing is impossible if it enjoys the Likud's support.

Shamir Calls on Arabs To End 'State of War'

TA2909124489 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has revealed that he recently relayed a message to the leaders of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries in which he suggested that they terminate the state of war with Israel and abolish the Arab boycott of Israel. In a special interview with HADASHOT on the eve of the Jewish New Year, Shamir said: "I have appealed to the United States and to Western countries that maintain contacts with Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and Algeria and proposed to their leaders: 'Let us talk about changing the nature of our relations, and let us first of all end the state of war.' As the first political move, I suggested to the Arab countries that we establish interests offices representing them and Israel."

Addressing Mubarak's initiative in the second part of the interview, the prime minister said: "I am willing to agree to an Israeli-Palestinian encounter, but we must know with whom we would be meeting."

Shamir Interviewed on Peace Initiative's Chances

TA3009104789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by 'Adi Talmor and Goni Mardor; place and time not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mardor] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Happy New Year.
[Shamir] A happy and blessed New Year to all.

[Mardor] Mr Shamir, what is happening to your peace initiative?
[Shamir] The peace initiative is not idle.

[Mardor] Is it moving?
[Shamir] Yes, it is moving. It is alive and kicking, it is being talked about and argued over. There are those who are looking for ways to block it, and others who are trying to advance it. Clarifications are being called for, there are responses. This is a sign that the initiative came at the right time and is the right action.

[Talmor] In what sense did it come at the right time? Is it realistic, since it is facing opposition from various directions?
[Shamir] Nobody deluded himself into thinking that everybody would nod their heads in agreement as soon as it appeared on the international arena. It is a difficult process. It calls for a change in perception, in feelings, and mentality, but I have no doubt whatsoever that it is realistic.

[Mardor] Beyond the difficulties being faced by your initiative in the international arena, as you have said, it is first of all facing difficulties on the home front.
[Shamir] That is obvious. There is a lot of excitement in and around Israel. Throughout our history people have not believed that peace with the Arabs is either feasible or realistic. With this initiative we are proposing something simple: The Arab countries, most of which we have almost no contact with, should come and say: We have nothing against Israel, we are interested in peace with Israel. There would be differences here and there, but what countries have no differences with other countries? Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the Maghreb—Algeria, Tunis, and Morocco—should come and tell us that they are not interested in continuing the formal state of hostilities with Israel, and want peace. Do you know what effect that would have? It would be a bombshell.

[Mardor] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak came and presented his own plan, the 10-point initiative; is that not a bombshell?
[Shamir] No, because we have had a peace accord with Egypt for a number of years.

[Mardor] The 10-point plan cannot advance the current initiative?
[Shamir] No. First of all we do not know what the 10 points are exactly. There are those who say it is a peace plan; there are those who say they are only questions presented to Israel; there are those who say they are demands for clarifications. What in fact are they?

[Mardor] What do you say?
[Shamir] I have not summed them up. There are those who say the Egyptians have not summed them up either.

[Talmor] Mr Shamir, it appears to me that the Israeli Government's peace plan is being pulled in two directions. The braces ministers in your party are pulling in one direction, the Alignment ministers are pulling in the other. Where are we moving on this?
[Shamir] That is political life: different elements play the game. I say play, but what I really mean is the U.S. saying that has become popular: It is the only game in town.

[Talmor] But it is also reducing the popularity of the Israeli Government's peace plan, which is dying.
[Shamir] No, no, the plan is at the center of things. We have said in this plan that there is a way to resolve the

disputes between us and the Arab world through peaceful means. It is a long, difficult route, but it must be begun.

[Talmor] That is what we say, but it seems that not everyone thinks so, and some are looking for other paths which are unacceptable to you.
[Shamir] We must overcome them. I undertook risks, the State of Israel undertook risks in this plan. It contains a lot of risks. Despite the dangers, such as deviations and mines planted along the way, we have to watch out for the risks and take the path that will lead to peace. I believe that the Arabs can, and in my view must, accept this plan willingly. It is an opportunity from which they can only gain.

[Talmor] What you are actually saying is that this is the plan, take it or leave it, this is the maximum being offered.
[Shamir] The plan, in its overall framework, is the only one possible. We went as far as we could in taking risks and making concessions. We did not propose anything that will leave room for bargaining, unlike those who start negotiations with a price twice as high as they expect to get so that they have something to bargain down to. We are not dickerers.

[Talmor] But the defense minister, who together with you created this plan, does not believe that. That, anyway, is the way it looks.
[Shamir] I do not believe that this is his approach, but he should be asked about that. What he is suggesting is tactics. That is important if it can further things.

[Mardor] In recent days there have been moves both by the vice prime minister and the defense minister. Within your own party there is a great deal of criticism about your permitting ministers in your government to act and take public positions which contradict the Israeli Government's official line.
[Shamir] First, we are a democratic country; we do not put on muzzles. Second, the current government has a special character. It is a government of national unity, or, I would prefer to say, national partnership in which components of different outlooks are participating; therefore we must permit different views to be aired, up to a limit.

[Mardor] Does this not endanger your peace initiative?
[Shamir] There is a limit. In my point of view, no member of the government is permitted to voice opinions in contacts with foreign elements contradicting the government's resolutions.

[Talmor] But the external elements know that there are differences of opinion inside the Israeli Government.
[Shamir] But they should also know that despite the differences there is a single opinion that is binding and jointly held by all. That is our strength. That was the situation for a number of months. To my regret in recent weeks it has weakened, cracks have appeared. That worries me very much.

[Mardor] Does it endanger the unity government?
[Shamir] Certainly. Government is not something merely technical. Theoretically, the government can go on forever. The government must act, decide, and execute resolutions. I hope, therefore, that in the coming days we will know where we stand.

[Talmor] But if this national unity torpedoes political moves, then has the time not come to say: That is enough?
[Shamir] That is the question. The question is who is torpedoing whom. When we refer to unity, we say that not because it is some heartfelt aspiration. We achieved national unity because we were all sure that we have a lot in common, at least the main components in the Israeli political arena, and this served as a basis for unity.
[Shamir] What is the common basis inside your own party, and what differences are there, Mr Shamir?
[Shamir] I am not concerned. There is a great deal of exaggeration for which the media, which you say is being blamed for everything, is largely responsible.

[Mardor] Why is the media guilty?
[Shamir] Because it exaggerates, does not present issues in the proper proportions, and does not reflect the true balance of forces.

[Mardor] Minister Arens is being attacked by colleagues inside his party; is that a correct picture?
[Shamir] I believe that I have said the situation is as follows: The Likud is behind the foreign minister.

[Talmor] What about the the Alignment? You expressed disappointment about the defense minister's remarks and behavior.
[Shamir] I did not refer to the defense minister.

[Talmor] Who then?
[Shamir] I spoke about ministers.

[Talmor] Minister Peres?
[Shamir] I do not have to explain, but I do say that it is inconceivable that the U.S. Administration should be presented with positions contradicting those of the government in the present situation. It is inconceivable that the U.S. should be directed to save Israel from itself, which to me is contemptible. Israel itself must decide its fate. Whoever calls on the U.S. Administration to pressure Israel damages Israel, sabotages Israel. This administration, like previous ones, has a policy of not exerting pressure on Israel.

[Mardor] But it has a policy of very active involvement.
[Shamir] Involvement, aid, help.

[Mardor] Giving out compliments as well.
[Shamir] What are we? Children? Are we in kindergarten? We do not have to be liked. Help us, yes; discuss things, express opinions, but no pressure. There are Jews and Israelis who tell the U.S. Administration: Pressure Israel. That is a disgrace. Have we not grown up enough to become an independent nation?

[Mardor] We are quite dependent on the United States in many aspects.

[Shamir] So what? What does that mean, we are dependent? We are allies; we help them and they help us. They do not give handouts to us.

[Talmor] Mr Shamir, why then did you not bring up the issue in dispute—Mubarak's 10-point plan—for a decision by the Inner Cabinet, or perhaps even the Cabinet, before the ministers left for the United States?
[Shamir] Look, on the one hand, these are very serious issues. On the other, unity is very important to me. Therefore I said to myself and to my colleagues: Let us clarify matters completely. You are going to the United States; you will have the opportunity to confer with the U.S. Administration, President Mubarak, and perhaps other political elements. We will then get together; everything will be put on the table; we will hear you, and then deliberate; but until then, nobody should express an opinion which contradicts the government's existing resolutions.

[Mardor] That situation has changed.
[Shamir] What does that mean, changed? People did not exactly act in that way.

[Talmor] And you are angry about that?
[Shamir] I am hurt.

[Talmor] What then do you expect following the talks in the United States? What messages do you expect from there?
[Shamir] We will convene, listen, express opinions, and try to reach a decison. If we can reach a joint decision which will enable us to continue together we will do so willingly because that is the desired alternative. Mutual concessions are always being made. When we sit together throughout the year—regardless of the 10 points and any involvement by some external factor—the very act of sitting together means mutual concessions.

[Mardor] Do you believe you will be able to reach mutual concessions on such issues of principle, issues on which you differ so?
[Shamir] I do not know if the differences are so deep. I still do not know that. I also do not know to what extent national unity is important to all the government's components. I am therefore always in favor of internal concessions.

[Talmor] Moreover, you are even hinting that there is a possibility that you will move away from your present positions.
[Shamir] I am not hinting at anything. I say the following, which has always been my policy: Externally, on all vital, important political issues we should stand firmly and decisively together. Internally, we should make all possible concessions.

[Talmor] If Mubarak makes any concession in his plan, according to your demands, would you also be prepared to make a concession and reach some sort of understanding which would enable an Israeli-Palestinian get-together?

[Shamir] I am not referring to concessions by Mubarak. I do not even know whether he has any plan. He does not say he has a plan.

[Talmor] He has a proposal.
[Shamir] What I know so far is that Mubarak always remains of one mind with the PLO. He does not take any position on the Palestinian-Israeli issue without first reaching an agreement with the PLO.

[Mardor] Mr Shamir, would this not be the case with any partner to negotiations?
[Shamir] I hope not. That would be impossible; that would be very bad.

[Talmor] Nevertheless, the defense minister would seem to have come to the conclusion that we can go nowhere in this region without the PLO.
[Shamir] I did not hear that from him. I know that our peace initiative, to which the defense minister was a very serious partner, is based on the premise that the PLO would not be the decisive factor or a factor at all. The PLO is a disruptive factor, but not a factor to peace. That is the premise of our peace initiative.

[Mardor] Is that feasible, Mr Shamir?
[Shamir] Well, is the existence of the State of Israel feasible? It is feasible because we decided we wanted it to exist—not because the PLO or the Arab world want Israel to exist, but because we want it; and the world takes our wish into consideration. If you were to say one word to some of our best friends, even to the United States, about doing without the State of Israel I do not know whether they would contradict you. It is our wish that counts.

[Talmor] Mr Shamir, in view of recent developments and the large involvement of the PLO in the process as well as its rising position, you are being accused of being the man who torpedoed the London agreement with King Husayn concerning a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. In retrospect, was this not a mistake on your part and by the Likud?
[Shamir] It is an absolute mistake to say such a thing. Some people are trying to idealize some sort of agreement which would have solved all our troubles, but the problem is that this is not true. There was no agreement which could have brought peace to Israel and at the same time guarantee that Israel's interests would not be affected.

[Mardor] But there was a chance.
[Shamir] There was no chance, just a lot of risks. The basis of all of King Husayn's proposals from that time until today has been a total Israeli withdrawal from all the territories which came under Israeli rule in the 6-Day War, including East Jerusalem.

[Talmor] Your senior partner in the government, the Alignment, accepts the principle of land for peace.
[Shamir] Look, there is a big misconception here. They spoke about land for peace at one time—on the face of it.

this sounds like a moderate and not far-reaching formula—and what they had in mind was the so-called territorial compromise. In other words, some country would come and tell us: give us a piece of land, and you will get partial peace or full peace; and the country they had in mind was Jordan. Today that situation no longer exists. I also say that it did not exist then either, because Jordan wanted a total withdrawal, but today, even that is not enough. Today Jordan is out of the game. Today, when you say land for peace, what land do you have in mind? You do not mean the Golan Heights and Syria since that does not apply at the moment. What you mean is Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Who should get back that land according to the people advocating this formula? The Palestinians! This means that they are in favor of a Palestinian state in that territory. There is no other practical meaning.

[Talmor] Mr Shamir, I am making this point because the feeling is that you, in your capacity as leader of the Likud and prime minister, actually have nothing to offer the Palestinians...
[Shamir, interrupting] What do you mean? I am proposing the beginning of negotiations through which they would initially get self-government which they never had before. Is self-government negligible? It entails a great deal of risks for us and a lot of chances for them. They would govern their own lives for a certain period of time. This would be a trial period—something important, essential, and necessary. After a few years, negotiations would start with them over the permanent solution; namely, the permanent status of those areas. What I am talking about is negotiations without any preconditions but one: fervent determination on both sides to reach a peaceful solution. What is wrong about that? This is a most generous proposal.

[Mardor] But it is not being accepted at this point.
[Shamir] So, they must accept it. Should I give up at once because they do not accept it? This is the only realistic way.

[Mardor] Who would be your partner, Mr Shamir?
[Shamir] The Arabs must be the partners, that is what we are proposing to them. If they reject our offer and prefer confrontation, stone-throwing, sabotage, and terror instead, that is their fault.

[Talmor] As prime minister, are you not interested in bringing about negotiations which would place the entire conflict on a political track?
[Shamir] What is needed is persuasion. We must persuade the Arabs, the Arab states, our friends and theirs, and countries around the world to intercede, plead, and bring pressure to launch the process. They talk about the end of the process, and that is what is wrong. I always tell them that the more you talk about the end of the process, the less we will begin it. Let us get started!

[Mardor] Mr Shamir, we are beginning a new Jewish year. What do you wish Israel's citizens in the new year?
[Shamir] First, I wish all of us a happy Rosh Hashanah; we all agree on this point. This should be a year of more security and peace.

[Mardor] You say the same thing every year.
[Shamir] Indeed, and we get more of it every year. There is progress; I say we are making progress.

[Talmor] Mr Shamir, you are a seasoned and experienced politician. Without going into prophecies, what developments do you foresee within the next weeks and months? Where are we headed?
[Shamir] In spite of everything, I foresee progress in the peace process. Look, now that we have come out with our initiative, nothing will ever be the same. The initiative is a factor to be reckoned with since it has affected the Arab, international, and our state of mind. I admit that we will have to make progress from this point on, and I am sure that there will be progress. It may take time, and in the Middle East one needs to be patient. Our nations have been in this region since the beginning of time. What is needed is patience and forbearance but, first and foremost, the wish to exist, to make progress, attain our objectives, and get the best; and I hope we will definitely get the best.

[Mardor] Mr Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, we thank you very much and wish you and your family a happy Rosh Hashanah.
[Shamir] A happy Rosh Hashanah to the entire Jewish people.

Commentator Sees Campaign To Dismantle Coalition

TA2909140889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Sep 89 p 2

[Commentary by Hanan Crystal: "The Likud Wolves"]

[Text] A few hours after the phony show of unity in the ceremony that launched the Histadrut election campaign, the heads of the warring factions in the Likud bared their fangs. In the traditional ceremony to toast the Jewish New Year at Likud headquarters, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi called Minister Roni Milo a foolish lackey after the latter defended the prime minister. Levi's flagrant onslaught against Shamir in the latter's presence, similar to previous onslaughts by Ministers Sharon and Moda'i—Levi's partners to the braces—against Foreign Minister Arens, who is on a state mission in the United States, were neither spontaneous nor incidental. They are part of a planned campaign to escalate the internal divisions in the party in a bid to attain the following objectives:

—To depose Shamir from the premiership or, alternatively, to undermine his public stature.

—To fatally wound the designated successor, Minister Arens, by portraying him as an indulgent dove or, alternatively, as a schlemiel.

—To prevent a compromise between Shamir and Rabin in order to dismantle the coalition partnership with the Labor Party as early as in the upcoming Inner Cabinet session next week, and to divide the vacated spoils of power, particularly the defense portfolio which has been earmarked for Sharon.

The hesitant and irresolute policy of brinkmanship practiced by Shamir and Arens—which is confined to sending into the arena lightweights such as Meridor, Olmert, Milo, and Netanyahu to fight a match versus the heavyweight brace ministers—is doomed to failure; and, as is known, failure is catching. In this decisive fight, Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i should be matched by Shamir, Arens, and Nisim. And the contest should take place in the real arena, which is the Likud Central Committee.

American Role in Peace Initiative Analyzed

TA2909110789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Sep 89 p 4

[Article entitled "An American Document?" by Dore Gold, "director of the U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy Projects at the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University"]

[Text] U.S.-Israeli differences over the peace process may once again be surfacing after a pause of several months. Superficially, there seems to be no reason for any discord between the two allies. In fact, U.S. official statements are far more praiseworthy today of the Israeli peace initiative than they were several months ago.

Just two weeks ago Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said that the U.S. was "wholeheartedly" endorsing the Israeli peace plan. State Department Policy Planning Chief Dennis Ross at about the same time told a symposium in the Washington area that the Israeli initiative was "the only game in town." Finally, Secretary of State James Baker himself on 19 September stated that "we strongly support the government of Israel's elections initiative." Baker was clearly changing the tone of American policy statements in comparison with the kind of lukewarm reactions he voiced last May at the time of his famous Aipac [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] speech.

Behind the more upbeat response to the Israeli peace initiative, important differences remain over U.S. and Israeli approaches to the peace process that are not immediately apparent with the shift of the focal point of diplomatic activity from Washington to Cairo. It is largely assumed that some Israeli-American discord is on the horizon in connection with Egypt's 10 points, different versions of which have reached Jerusalem this past month. But American officials are not calling on Israel to accept them. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs John Kelly recently remarked in Washington that he would be amazed if Israel accepted all 10 Egyptian points.

Other U.S. officials have explained that the Egyptian 10-point document actually accepts in principle the Israeli election initiative but only supplies Egypt's view of the initiative's details. The Israeli initiative, with Egyptian-supplied specifics, it is assumed will make it easier for the Palestinians to accept the election proposal and get an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue started, at least. With all the praise that President Mubarak's 10 points have received, certainly the U.S. cannot formally support them as a whole, especially as the Egyptian document says nothing about an interim settlement—a central feature of both the Camp David accords and the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

Israeli-American difficulties will therefore not necessarily arise in connection with Egypt's 10 points. However, a second document has also surfaced during the last week or so which could be considerably more troubling. According to reports in the Israeli Hebrew press, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently returned from Washington with a four point document about the modalities of an initial Israeli-Palestinian meeting to discuss the idea of elections. The document apparently represents Egyptian assessments of what can be extracted from the PLO and was contained in a message from President Husni Mubarak to President Bush. It was relayed to Rabin by Baker's key aide, Dennis Ross.

The four point document first asserts that the PLO will agree to ta'ks between an Israeli delegation and a Palestinian delegation made up of inhabitants from the territories and recently deported Palestinians; it also suggests the inclusion of a Palestinian-American—an apparent reference to Edward Said or Ibrahim Abu Lughod, both PNC [Palestine National Council] members whose names have been raised in the past in the context of a Palestinian delegation. An attempt to include Palestinians with some institutional connection with the PLO would be consistent with the recent Egyptian attempt to put forward PNC-member and 'Arafat adviser, Nabil Sha'th, as a potential negotiator.

The document continues with the PLO being willing to "authorize" the Palestinian delegation to discuss elections on the basis of Egypt's 10 points. After a word about Egyptian assistance to the parties during the talks, the document closes with the PLO not insisting on a UN role in the first stage of negotiations, but leaves open the possibility of other states being invited as observers should the U.S. elect such a role for itself.

Strikingly, if Egypt's 10 points on the implementation of elections say nothing about the PLO, the PLO appears in three out of four of the paragraphs of the four point document brought back from Washington. While earlier versions of Egypt's 10 points might have been sent from Egypt with a congressional delegation, the latest version was at least directly delivered to Jerusalem by Egypt's ambassador in Tel Aviv. The four points which could have as easily been directly sent, as well, from Egypt to Israel were passed on by the U.S. Department of State.

That the U.S. served as the conduit for this latter document raises the question of the American attitude to its contents.

The central question in the peace process today is how exactly Israel's dialogue with the Palestinians of Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip ought to get started in order to implement the election component of Israel's four-point peace plan. The apparent Israeli assumption of the Shamir-Rabin consensus until recently has been that the Palestinians of the territories themselves will come forward because it is in their interest to do so. According to some government spokesmen this process will only occur when the Palestinians here realize that the PLO is not capable of delivering them anything; for this reason the U.S.-PLO dialogue is criticized as serving as an obstacle to the "revolt of the locals" being realized.

The Israeli peace initiative, with its focus on negotiations with the elected representatives of the Palestinians living in the territories, essentially seeks to create an alternative with the PLO. American assessments in 1988, before the advent of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, that acknowledged the growing political weight of the "inside" Palestinians versus the "outsiders" actually viewed the greater political involvement of the locals as a long-term development worth encouraging.

U.S. assumptions, under the Bush administration, have been different. U.S. officials argue that rather than being an obstacle to the realization of local Palestinian acceptance of elections, the U.S.-PLO dialogue can actually assist in the implementation of the Israeli peace initiative. Their view has been that without the PLO's positive sanction the process will never get moving.

Thus American diplomacy has sought a "green light" from PLO-Tunis towards the Palestinians of the territories. On its part, the PLO has not been willing to cooperate unless it knows ahead of time that the process it is entering will lead to a Palestinian state with it exercising a dominant role in negotiations at a later stage. Certainly Secretary of State James Baker has not precluded eventual Israeli-PLO talks at a later stage in the peace process, thereby raising the question of whether Israel's "build on the locals" strategy could ever be preserved once the "green light" from Tunis is given.

While the U.S. has been the conduit for the four points, it has not yet endorsed them. With the 10/four point package having become an issue of Israeli party politics, American diplomats, to their credit, are being extremely careful about not getting involved in domestic Israeli politics. It may be conceivable that the U.S. might take a position on a Palestinian delegation including deportees should the PLO actually accept the Mubarak initiative as the Egyptian President promises every other day.

At present, however, the political environment in Washington, after repeated PLO-constituent infiltration attempts and the Fatah conference, is not conducive to pressing Israel over the issue of Palestinian representation. That may be the reason why the centre of diplomatic activity has been shifted by the U.S. from Washington to Cairo. In the meantime, the U.S. has assisted Mubarak in throwing the ball from the Arab side back into Israel's court without having to supply an Arab or Palestinian response to Israel's peace initiative. Israel must give the answers and the Palestinians avoid having to bear the onus of saying no.

The Egyptian four point document relayed by the U.S. to Israel has little subtlety. It specifically identifies the PLO as the principal Palestinian authority that will get the negotiating process going, albeit by remote control. The central issue the document has raised is how precisely the Israeli peace initiative should treat the PLO. The resolution of the current diplomatic phase of the peace process will require skill. Whether the PLO "green light" is achieved or not, it is extremely unlikely that Israel's national unity government will agree to a process that deepens the role of precisely the party that its peace plan seeks to circumvent. U.S.-Israeli conceptions regarding the proper role of the PLO have been a cause of disagreement since the Bush administration took office. They may well surface again as attempts are made to get the Arab-Israeli peace process moving again.

Agreement Should Be Reached With Jordan, PLO

TA2909174689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 89 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Should Husayn Be Helped or Overthrown?"]

[Text] Should Israel worry about King Husayn's well-being in view of what has been happening in his country and try its best to ignore the provocations perpetrated from Jordanian territory against the king's will? There are two opinions on the issue in Israel: One is held by senior defense officials and backed by Alignment politicians, such as Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and moderate Likud members. Some of them believe that Husayn will yet play an important role in the peace process despite his disengagement from the West Bank. Others in this group argue that Husayn's overthrow would be dangerous because it would open a Pandora's box on the other side of our eastern border and would threaten our country.

The second group argues that Jordan is in fact Palestine, or will be Palestine in the future, and that Husayn stands in the way of a natural process which will emerge between Israel and the Palestinians whereby the territory would be divided between two states: Israel and Palestine.

The first group is increasingly worried about signs that the king has been growing weak. The signs are diverse: the dismal Jordanian economy; Husayn's growing dependence on Arab donors, including the PLO which was asked to keep its money deposits in Jordanian banks; and the dissatisfaction with the king and his

family which has spread to various sectors of the population, including the Bedouin. Doubts also have emerged about the king's control over his army, particularly in view of the attacks against Israel by maverick Jordanian soldiers.

To this one must add the fact that the king has been dragged into dangerous military cooperation with Iraq. On the one hand, he allowed Iraqi aircraft to conduct reconnaissance flights along the Israeli border; on the other hand, he provoked Al-Asad when he allowed the transfer of Iraqi weapons to General 'Awn, who has been fighting the Syrians in Lebanon. The king's poor health only exacerbates the sense of worry.

The dilemma of this group, which steers Israel's defense policy at present, is how to deal with Jordan in light of the recurrent incidents along the border which have caused the deaths of two Israeli soldiers. Because of the wish to uphold the king's rule, Israel has been treating him as a naughty child who must be reminded of his responsibility and who deserves a spanking. The fear is that because of his poor physical and mental condition, an excessively severe punishment might do away with him completely. The spanking will come if the incidents continue, but contrary to past retaliations for violent attacks carried out from the territory of a neighboring country, it will be administered with utmost caution.

The members of the second group, those who claim that Jordan is or will be Palestine, are not impressed but rather pleased about the king's weakening because they see it as an inevitable process. This outlook is currently attributed to Ari'el Sharon, but it was initially held by rightist circles within the Labor Party. The difference is that the Sharonists are willing to encourage the process and take advantage of opportunities through military and other means. Jordan is apparently following this approach very closely for fear that the Israeli Army's General Staff might have a "blueprint" for the Hashemite regime's overthrow stored away in a vault somewhere. Now that Professor Yehezqel Dror, a well-known Israeli strategist, in a recent book has come out in fervent support of such ideas, the sense of menace will probably increase in Amman. People there think that the continuation of the intifadah will ultimately lead to a mass deportation of Palestinians to Jordan in order to create havoc in their country.

Dror provides the ideological-strategic basis to Sharon's approach, but he uses blunter language to put his case. For instance, Dror argues that Israel should take action to turn Jordan into a Palestinian state, but he proposes to do that through agreement with the Palestinians which would include a solution concerning the territories.

Dror's proposal, as presented in a news conference this week, has three main flaws: First, those who want an agreement with the Palestinians must make it with the official leadership of the Palestinian people, which is the PLO; such an agreement cannot be finalized with Faysal al-Husayni or Sari Nusaybah. Dror, however, abstained from mentioning the PLO by name. Apparently he did not want to upset too many people.

Second, this would actually be an agreement to overthrow Husayn which would spell an almost certain confrontation with Washington—which considers Husayn an ally—as well as with Egypt. If the arguments of Sharon and his supporters about the PLO's instability are true, why should Washington agree to replace Husayn with the PLO? Such a move would certainly provoke a confrontation with Iraq which would seize the opportunity to send military aid to Jordan.

Third, it is unlikely that Husayn will sit idly by and wait until Israel and the Palestinians agree, as Dror proposes, to do him in. It would only be natural and logical for him to ask Iraq to send him military support and troops. Hence, Dror's proposal entails an invitation for Iraqi military involvement on our eastern border.

The proposals of Sharon and Dror expose a far deeper problem. Should Israel encourage the establishment of a Greater Palestine stretching from the Iraqi border to Israel's Green Line somewhere in the heart of the West Bank—a Greater Palestine which may be willing to arrive at a territorial compromise on the West Bank and Gaza, but which may enter a military coalition with Syria and ultimately also with Iraq? Or, should Israel strive not to have two entities to the east of it, one in the territories and another in Jordan, based on the premise that despite the fact that most of Jordan's population will be Palestinian, the two entities will still have different local interests?

Although the Palestinization of Jordan is a fact, I do not think Israel should take action for the establishment of a Palestine from the Euphrates to Gaza which would include parts of the West Bank. Israel should strive for an agreement with the PLO and Jordan so that, together with Israel, three entities emerge in the said territory. Such an agreement would lead to an economic, political, and military balance which would drive away the Iraqi threat and keep it away from Israel's border.

Palestinian Leaders See Problems With Initiative

TA2909162389 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Sep 89 p 2

[Excerpts] "We are Israel's enemy, not its slaves. We do not accept Israel's initiative because it includes several conditions which, by their own merit, constitute an obstacle to peace," Faysal al-Husayni, one of the most prominent Palestinian leaders, stated yesterday.

He pointed out that the Palestinians are prepared to enter negotiations and contemplate every proposal if Israel and the United States treat them as a people, not as a minority or as the residents of a certain geographic area. He was speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem called by the Foreign Press Association in Israel. [passage omitted]

Dr Sari Nusaybah said Israel must take a series of steps to restore the situation to what it used to be. Nusaybah said such steps would include allowing the return of deportees, eliminating prisons and releasing intifadah detainees, discontinuing the collection of taxes, disbanding the militias of collaborators, removing Israeli Army troops from Arab locations, and stopping punitive measures against the civilian population. [passage omitted]

Responding to questions, Dr Nusaybah added that once the PLO has appointed its delegation to the negotiations with Israel, the agenda of the talks would include several principles: the withdrawal of Israeli forces, the principle of two states for two nations, self-determination for the Palestinian people, and measures by the Israeli Government to reduce the harassment and aggravation inflicted by the authorities.

"The way we see it," Dr Nusaybah said, "the main problem in the Israeli initiative is the dangerous contradiction between Shamir's proposals and the actions taken by Israel in the territories. That is why we do not take Israel's proposals seriously. Shamir's wish to make peace with the Arab countries while ignoring the Palestinian people will not come true."

PLO Official Rejects Egyptian 'Pressure'

TA2809141989 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 28 Sep 89 pp 1, 11

[AL-TALI'AH correspondent report]

[Text] Prague—Na'im al-Ashhab, member of the Palestinian Communist Party Politburo and the PLO Central Council, said that the Palestinian side cannot accept Egyptian pressure to delegate the question of naming a Palestinian delegation to conduct a dialogue with Israel to the Egyptian Government. He added that this is totally rejected because it infringes upon the essence of Palestinian independent decisionmaking.

In response to the AL-TALI'AH correspondent, Al-Ashhab, who took part in the series of meetings held recently by the Palestinian leadership in Tunis, added that the Egyptian position has alternated from one which first "understood" Palestinian policy, then moved to that of a mediator, and then moved to a position exerting pressure on the Palestinian side to accept U.S. demands. It is noteworthy that at the beginning Mubarak's 10 points were put forward in the form of questions to the Israeli side last July. The points addressed substantial issues, such as the PLO's role and the link between elections and a comprehensive settlement. But as a result of U.S. pressures, these points were emptied of their substantial issues and became compatible with the Israeli Labor Party's comprehension of Shamir's plan.

On the Palestinian position regarding the active diplomatic moves witnessed in the region during the past few weeks, Al-Ashhab said: The Palestinian side has explained to all parties concerned that it is committed to the principles of the settlement set forth in the Palestinian peace initiative, while at the same time it is ready to respond favorably to initiatives and moves aimed at extricating the peace process from deadlock.

Poll Shows Israeli-Palestinian Meeting Supported

TA2909114089 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Sep 89 p 1

[Report on a public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute, under the management of Dr Mina Tzemah, on behalf of YEDI'OT AHARONOT]

[Text] Some 52 percent of the public favors a meeting between an Israeli and a Palestinian delegation in Cairo, while 40 percent opposes it. About 8 percent of the public has no opinion on the matter.

This is the result of a public opinion poll carried out last week. The poll was conducted among a representative sample of 688 people who were interviewed privately.

—Question: Are you for or against an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo, under the following conditions: Israel would come on the basis of Shamir's initiative; the Palestinians would base their stand on Mubarak's 10 points; the composition of the Palestinian delegation would be agreed to by Israel?

For: 52 percent.
Against: 40 percent.
No opinion: 8 percent.

Canada's Clark Reveals Plan To Meet With PLO

TA0210082089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] The Canadian secretary for external affairs, Joe Clark, intends to meet with a PLO representative. The Voice of Israel reporter in Washington says Clark informed Foreign Minister Arens during talks last week that he sees the PLO as an important element representing the Palestinian people.

Survey Indicates Peres Tops 'Most Hated' List

TA2909122489 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew (HADASHOT SHEL SHABAT supplement) 29 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] A poll commissioned by HADASHOT and conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi research institute asked a nationwide representative sample of 1,210 people: "In your opinion, who is the most hated person in Israel?" These are the 10 most hated people (figures given in percentages):

1. Shim'on Peres—21.3.
2. [Citizen Rights Movement Knesset Member] Yosi Sarid—16.9.
3. Ari'el Sharon—15.2.
4. Me'ir Kahane—10.3.

5. Yitzhaq Shamir—1.7.
6. [Citizens Rights Movement Knesset Member] 'Oded Zucker—1.3.
7. [Citizens Rights Movement head and Knesset Member] Shulamit Aloni—1.1.
8. David Levi—0.9.
9. [Torah Observing Sepharadim head and Knesset Member] Yitzhaq Peretz—0.9.
10. [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality head and Knesset Member] Me'ir Wilner—0.8.

Some 6.1 percent named others, and 23.5 percent answered "I do not know." The poll was conducted during the 2d and 3d weeks of August in private interviews.

Academic Center To Open in Beijing 'Very Soon'

TA2909112889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Sep 89 pp 1, 5

[Report by special correspondent in New York Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Israel will very soon open an academic center in Beijing that will represent all its interests. This was decided last night in a meeting between the foreign ministers of Israel and the PRC in New York. It will be remembered that China has opened a tourism bureau in Israel. [passage omitted]

Press Offices To Open in Tel Aviv, Beijing

TA3009162689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] The PRC and Israel will soon open press offices in Tel Aviv and Beijing. This was decided by Foreign Ministers Moshe Arens and Qian Qichen in their meeting at the UN Center in New York. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in the wake of the opening of a Chinese tourism office here, Israel will open an academic liaison office in China.

At the beginning of next week Foreign Minister Arens will confer with his counterparts from two African countries which do not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

Soviet Economic Delegation Due in November

TA2909185789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] The opening of economic representations in the Soviet Union and Israel is expected to take place by the end of the year. A high-level Soviet economic delegation will come to Israel in November to sign an agreement to this effect. This was stated today by Dani Gillerman, president of Israel's Union of Chambers of Commerce, upon his return from Paris where Israeli and Soviet representatives initialed the accord.

According to the agreement, each of the representations will include three people who hold diplomatic status. In addition to the opening of economic representations, the agreement includes other clauses concerning the exchange of economic and commercial know-how and the exchange of experts between Israel and the Soviet Union.

A financial deal was signed between Israeli and Soviet representatives during the talks. Our economic affairs correspondent Hayim Plattner points out that the Soviet officials expressed keen interest in know-how about various agricultural crops as well as in the purchase of fresh agricultural produce, food items, and medicines.

Contacts on Direct Moscow Flights To Resume

TA0210085989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Israel will soon renew contacts with the USSR on direct flights from Moscow to Israel, following the U.S. Administration's decision to institute new regulations on immigration.

Soviet sources recently said that there is room for discussion on direct flights, which they view as an economic and not a political issue.

Bureau Denies Report on Hod Hahanit License

TA0210085689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] The defense minister's bureau says that it does not know about any specific permission given to Hod Hahanit to export its military know-how and military equipment, as claimed by the London weekly THE OBSERVER.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe was told that the weekly's claim that the defense minister had given the Hod Hahanit company such a license was thoroughly checked.

The defense minister's bureau says, however, that it is possible that the weekly is referring to the export license it granted to hundreds of companies and individuals prior to Reserves Brigadier General Avraham Bar'am's arrest in the United States 3 years ago. Following this affair, the regulations on the granting of licenses for the export of armaments and military know-how were changed.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 2 October in an article by Yehezqel Adiram on pages 1 and 13 reports that the lie detector test given Yosi Biran, the security officer at the Israeli Embassy in Bogota, who arrived in Israel for the holidays, shows that Biran was "telling the truth" in his denial of Ya'ir Klein's claim that Biran "had demanded money in return for helping Klein escape from Colombia." The Foreign Ministry issued an announcement last night claiming "that all of Ya'ir Klein's claims are baseless."]

Contract Signed To Build Egyptian Monuments

TA3009193689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1802 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] A contract to build monuments for fallen Egyptian soldiers was signed over the weekend by the Defense Ministry of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Shmu'el Schefler firm in Tel Aviv. The contract is based on the Camp David accords which state that Egypt agrees to leave intact the monuments built by Israel in the Sinai while, in exchange, Israel agrees to have the Egyptians build two monuments on Israeli soil in memory of the Egyptian soldiers who died in the 1948 Independence War.

Attorney Ehud Bar'am, who will represent the Israeli firm, said tonight that the building of the monuments will take approximately 4 months and will cost $400,000. The unveiling ceremony will be attended by the Egyptian and Israeli defense ministers.

Human Rights Groups Release Data on Uprising

TA2909153889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew (THIS WEEK supplement) 29 Sep 89 p 17

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Text] The following information pertaining to the intifadah for the Jewish year 5749 was compiled from data provided by the association for human rights in the territories Betzelem, Palestinian sources, the Israeli Civil Rights Association, and Al-Haqq-Justice in the Service of Man Society.

In the past year, from September 1988 to the end of August 1989, 269 Palestinians were killed in the territories by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire. This figure includes 26 children up to the age of 12, and another 50 children between 13 and 16 years of age.

Ten people died from beatings or various causes other than gunfire. This figure includes three children up to the age of 12, and two children between 13 and 16 years of age.

Eight IDF soldiers and 11 Israeli citizens (including three infants) have been killed since the beginning of the intifadah. Eleven Palestinians, three of them under 16 years of age, have died in circumstances casting suspicions on Israeli citizens.

Twenty-six inhabitants of the territories have been deported in the past year.

The number of arrests is estimated at approximately 30,000. This figure includes multiple arrests.

According to the IDF's data, about 8,000 persons have been placed under administrative arrest. Some 15,000 people, including 2,000 administrative detainees, are currently being held in various lock-up facilities.

The number of houses demolished or sealed off by the security forces in the past year is hard to estimate. According to Betzelem's estimates released this week, since the beginning of the intifadah some 354 houses have been demolished for security reasons. Another 800 houses have been demolished because, for some reason, they did not have building permits; and this move can definitely be considered collective punishment.

About 100 collaborators have been assassinated in the territories from the beginning of the intifadah until September of this year—82 of them since January of this year. Some 260 collaborators have been wounded, and another four have been killed by mistake because they were suspected of being Jews.

Arab Mayors Denounce Tax Raids as 'Illegal'

TA0110052689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Three Palestinian mayors have denounced Israel for seizing property and goods from residents of Bayt Sahur near Bethlehem in a series of tax raids over the past 10 days. Authorities took action after people in Bayt Sahur obeyed calls from activists not to pay taxes to Israel.

Mayors Ilyas Frayj of Bethlehem, Farah al-A'raj of Bayt Jala, and Hanna al-Atrash of Bayt Sahur issued a statement saying the raids were illegal. They called on the international community to force Israel to end the measure, saying that movable goods, including furniture and machines, had been confiscated.

Gaza Strip Delegation Departs for Cairo

TA3009151589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] A delegation of notables from the Gaza Strip left for Egypt this morning. Its members will ask the Egyptian authorities to allow more students from the Gaza Strip to study in Egyptian universities, based on the argument that universities in the territories have been closed. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Ziyad notes that one of the members of the delegation, attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, said the possibility of holding meetings in Cairo with Palestinian and Egyptian officials should not be ruled out.

Palestinian Youth Killed by Army Gunfire

TA3009113789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] A Palestinian youth was killed by army fire in an overnight clash in the Janin area. The army spokesman said masked youths armed with knives attempted to stop soldiers close to the village of (Nayil Tulu').

Arab sources in the Gaza Strip reported that a number of local residents were wounded in clashes today.

In the Jerusalem neighborhood of Shu'fat last night, stones were thrown at a police patrol. Arab sources said one East Jerusalem resident was injured. In the Silwan neighborhood, stones were thrown at a Border Police jeep. No one was injured.

Abu-Nidal Group Warns Against Extradition

NC3009152089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1440 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] The Palestinian Abu-Nidal group has warned that it will not stand idly by if the United States hands Mahmud al-'Abid Ahmad, one of its members, over to the Israeli judiciary. Mahmud al-'Abid Ahmad is charged with throwing petrol bombs and carrying out a machinegun attack on an Israeli bus in April.

Saudi Executions Protested, Prompt New Threats

NC3009071489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] In response to an invitation from Hizballah, and in denunciation of the criminal massacre committed by the Wahhabi authorities of al-Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] against 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims, a massive protest march set out from the Imam Ridah mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd at 1515 yesterday. The marchers carried pictures of the late great Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul, and Ayatollah Sayyid 'Ali Khamene'i, as well as drawings of blood-suckers representing U.S. President George Bush and the rulers of al-Hijaz and Kuwait. The marchers also carried placards condemning the Wahhabi regime of the Al Sa'ud family.

The march was led by a number of prominent ulema and a huge crowd of brothers and sisters. After going through Beirut's Southern Suburb, the marchers reached the mosque of Imam al-Mahdi in al-Ghubayrah.

His eminence Shaykh Zuhayr Kanj said Hizballah in Lebanon, Kuwait, and al-Hijaz will follow the family of Al Sa'ud wherever they are in the world, adding that Saudi embassies worldwide will be the target of the mujahidin. Shaykh Kanj said the massacres committed by Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz surpass those committed by Yazid and Mu'awiyah [early Muslim rulers].

Fadlallah Says U.S. Wants Crisis Prolonged

NC0210071789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said he believes that the political moves are designed to take a long time in order to prolong the crisis. He stressed that the political fanfare in Lebanon and the region is proceeding under U.S. direction. He said that the United States is actively seeking to continue using the Lebanese issue to divert attention from the Israeli issue. He also noted that the dispatch of the first secretary from the U.S. Embassy in Beirut to al-Ta'if is designed to administer the U.S. plan directly so that the Lebanese deputies will not misunderstand U.S. hints.

Attempts To Assassinate Fadlallah Reported

NC2909165589 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 25 Sep 89 p 9

[Text] Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah escaped two assassination attempts in the Southern Suburb last week.

The first assassination attempt took place in the Imam Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd, where someone put a military belt [hizam 'askari] on a prayer mat behind the place where Fadlallah usually prays. The man then disappeared after giving the congregation the impression that he was going to perform his ablutions.

Moments before Fadlallah's arrival, the situation was discovered; it was found that the belt was booby-trapped in a modern and sophisticated way and was set to explode by "remote control."

The person who planted the booby-trapped belt was not identified. He entered the mosque wearing a military uniform. He did not arouse any suspicion because everyone thought he was one of the local gunmen.

The second assassination attempt featured the concentrated bombardment of Fadlallah's residence in Harat Hurayk, which was hit by shells fired from artillery emplacements in the eastern area. It is reported that there are other reasons for the targeting of scholar Fadlallah. [sentence as published]

Al-Musawi Says Meeting Will Accomplish Nothing

NC0110204289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Hizballah leader Husayn al-Musawi has stated that the al-Ta'if meetings, elections, and reforms will achieve nothing. He added: We must get rid of this regime which is Israel's agent and hostile to the Muslims.

Ibrahimi, Al-Khatib Comment on Peace Process

NC0110114989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the Arab envoy to Lebanon, said that it is time to end the oppression of the Lebanese people, and affirmed that Lebanon will return to what it was before. A compromise solution will not respond to the wishes or be acceptable to all parties, he said in an interview with the army magazine published by the Guidance Directorate of the Lebanese Army under the command of Major General Sami al-Khatib.

Ibrahimi said that a peaceful solution will not be achieved at the expense of one group's objectives over another's. He said that the destruction of Lebanon will not achieve reforms, liberation, or an Israeli withdrawal. Regardless of differing views, there is no point in using the gun. The wager on peace means silencing the gun. The ball is now in the court of all the Lebanese.

Ibrahimi affirmed that there are no obstacles, and the decision not to be hasty is the wish of the Lebanese parties. The time has come to lift this nightmare from them, he said.

In a statement addressed to the soldiers, and published in the same magazine, Maj Gen al-Khatib said: We are not lovers of war, especially if it is against our compatriots. We did not declare or start this war. We seek a just homeland in which everyone can find peace and equality. He called on the soldiers not to submit or be lax in the face of an alleged liberation war.

Maj Gen al-Khatib said that some commanders in al-Yarzah, after finding themselves politically and popularly isolated in the eastern areas, were compelled to retreat and acknowlege the reality of the conflict and the inevitability of its outcome, which has started to emerge clearly on more than one front and level. These commanders will exploit this period of peace to reequip and recharge their units in order to resume the liberation war, should the efforts for a peaceful solution fail. These commanders have started the process of foiling efforts for a peaceful solution by submitting proposals and conditions to the conferees in Saudi Arabia as they discuss the reform document.

Maj Gen al-Khatib called on the soldiers to continue the daily training programs and reinforce their national and pan-Arab convictions. He also affirmed that the military establishment does not consist of two sects, creeds, or groups, but military men. He rejected one-upmanship by anyone regarding national affiliation or work, saying that the army is the responsibility of every patriot in Lebanon.

Ibrahimi Discusses Prospects for Dialogue

NC2909154289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 29 Sep

[Excerpts] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi has said that the current phase is crucial. He added: There is no doubt that all parties are aware of the importance of this phase. We hope that they will all make an effort and participate in the dialogue.

In an interview with our radio, Ibrahimi said: I started on this mission 3 or 4 months ago. Since then many Lebanese officials have made remarks that drew objections from others, but I refused to get involved.

Ibrahimi was asked to comment on Patriarch Sfayr's statement in which he voiced objection to a constituent role for the Chamber of Deputies. Ibrahimi also was asked how such statements might reflect on the al-Ta'if meeting. Ibrahimi declared: No comment. What I do know is that all parties, without exception, have agreed to begin a dialogue on the basis of the seven-point plan. The Lebanese deputies have held consultations with many parties and I think that they all share this common belief in dialogue. As for the Lebanese officials, they make many statements and sometimes these statements are contradictory. Only they can be held responsible for what they say.

Ibrahimi was asked: If the al-Ta'if meeting fails, will the truce hold? And do the Arabs have any alternative plans if the al-Ta'if talks collapse?

He replied: There is one thing that I can guarantee, and that is that the tripartite committee and its representative in Lebanon will not fire at anyone. What I heard from all the Lebanese parties was that they wanted to give the peace initiative a chance and would refrain from fighting in the meantime. Should anyone think that the fighting will start up again if the matter is not resolved on the night of Saturday 30 September, then let me tell you that the fighting will start again on Saturday night. The truth is that we will need more than 1 day of dialogue. [passage omitted]

Ibrahimi was asked about the position of a certain party that calls for a Syrian withdrawal and defines its stand in relation to the dialogue accordingly. He answered: Syria has been giving assurances to the Lebanese since it entered this country. These assurances seemed at one time to please some people and disturb others. Then the situation changed and those who were pleased are no longer so. There is another problem. Some people have said that I gave guarantees. What I did was simply to relay what was said to me, and some of the ideas that I presented were acceptable. [passage omitted]

More Deputies Leave for Meeting in Al-Ta'if

NC2909122189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The deputies left Lebanon aboard two planes today taking more than one position with them. A helicopter carrying nine deputies aboard took off from Adma Base for Larnaca at approximately 1015 this morning. The deputies will board a civilian aircraft at Larnaca to go to Saudi Arabia.

A civilian plane took the other deputies from Beirut. The two groups will meet in al-Ta'if tomorrow. It has not been established yet whether they will agree on what they will discuss. Consequently, it is not known how long the deputies will be absent or whether they will return on one or two planes. [passage omitted]

The deputies who took off from Beirut airport had earlier met at the house of former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. They included deputies Zaki Mazbudi, 'Abd-al-Mawla Amhaz, Farid Sirhal, Najah Wakim, Hashim al-Husayni, Nazih al-Bizri, 'Ali al-'Abdallah, Zahir al-Khatib, Khatchig Babikian, Rafiq Shahin, Shafiq Badr, Melkon Eblighatian, Butrus Harb, Nasir al-Ma'luf, Rene Mu'awwad, Talal al-Mir'ibi, and Tawfiq 'Assaf.

Junblatt Criticizes Tripartite Committee's Plan

NC0110171089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] In a statement to be published in tomorrow's edition of AL-ANBA' to mark the sixth anniversary of the establishment of the civilian administration in the Mountain, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt said: It is difficult to be optimistic. It is also difficult to tell the people that the crisis has not ended because of the impact of such a statement. We must, however, point out that when we were briefed on the contents of the Arab tripartite committee's plan, we discovered that it contained huge loopholes. It is merely a new sectarian plan with great contradictions that are liable to explode at any time if the domestic or foreign balances are upset.

The PSP leader continued: The main problem is the issue of the army. Unless the army is purged of its corrupt and criminal elements and unless a clear-cut and frank inter-Lebanese agreement is reached concerning its role and size, all proposals are useless. This is because the army is very large and capable of obstructing all political life, including the functions of the Cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies at any time. I would like to remind everyone of the bitter experiment with the intelligence apparatus during former President Shihab's administration. We were exposed to the greatest hardships during that period. I do not expect the Arab committee or the deputies meeting in al-Ta'if to produce important results unless the Arab committee can prevent arms from entering Lebanon, unless those states that support the committee such as the United States, France, and the USSR—not to mention the Arab states—give practical support to the committee, and unless they realize that radical reforms are urgently needed in Lebanon.

Junblatt added: When we review their stands, we find that each state has its own plan and its own objectives in Lebanon, and the majority of Arab regimes are opposed to reform because any democratic reform in Lebanon would also affect those regimes. We believe that they share the common objective of achieving a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon without considering its impact on the nationalists and the Muslims.

Junblatt pointed out that administrative decentralization is inevitable and is basic to all countries. It should coincide with any comprehensive development plan for Lebanon.

Birri, Junblatt Depart for Tehran 1 Oct

NC0210064989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt left Damascus yesterday for Tehran to join a Lebanese-Palestinian delegation which has been in the Iranian capital since 21 September. The delegation will continue consultations with Iranian officials. The consultations began in Tehran in June under the sponsorship of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Security Panel Discusses Mountain Disengagement

NC3009132189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] The Security Committee held a meeting at its racecourse headquarters at noon today under the chairmanship of Algerian officers Fudayl and Ramadan. They discussed the question of disengagement on the Mountain combat lines.

Iddih Reaffirms Nomination for Presidency

LD0210095689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0822 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 2 (KUNA)—Leader of the Lebanese national block Raymond Iddih renewed his renomination to the Lebanese battle of presidency.

Speaking to daily AL-QABBAS in an interview published Monday, the Lebanese official said that "my chance of winning is one in a million but I am not ready to back off on my stance now."

Iddidh said that he still insists on his two conditions: first his election by Lebanese parliamentarians while he is in Paris, and second to contact the 5 superpowers and convince them in implementing resolutions 425, 462.09 and 587 within a period that does not exceed 30 days.

"If these conditions are achieved, [words indistinct] handle the position of a president," Iddih said, "otherwise I would leave the way for others."

The deputy said that the Lebanese atmosphere was not appropriate this year to elect a new presient or conduct any constitutional reforms due to the presence of both the Israeli and Syrian armies in Lebanon.

"If any president is elected during the presence of Israeli or Syrian forces the result would be the same," Iddih pointed out, adding that by doing so the Lebanese president would only be ruling a small sector of Lebanon as was the situation with former Presidents Ilyas Sarkis and Amin al-Jumayyil.

Iddih stressed that if he was elected as president he would not take the oath unless the Security Council decides to withdraw the Israeli army from Lebanon after which he will demand the withdrawal of the Syrian army.

The Lebanese national block leader said that the current al-Ta'if meeting cannot discuss major issues related to the Lebanese Constitution or those related to the withdrawal of Syria.

Iddih said that parliament speaker Hussayn al-Husayni contacted him by telephone asking him to attend the al-Ta'if summit but that he had refused.

Need for Israeli Pullout From South Discussed

NC2909164289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Excerpts] QNA has said the Arab tripartite committee is currently considering a proposal to hold a direct dialogue among Lebanese leaders from both parts of Beirut who are concerned with the crisis. [passage omitted]

QNA disclosed that the tripartite committee has obtained U.S. assurances regarding the need to pressure Israel to reduce its forces inside the border strip and withdraw from there gradually once a national unity government has been proclaimed for the election of a new president. Then, the agency added, Lebanese Army troops and UN Interim Forces in Lebanon would cooperate with internal security forces in deploying in the areas near the southern border with Israel.

'Awn Says Next Task To Plan Syrian Withdrawal

NC2909150789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has asserted that the next task will be to draw up plans to pull the Syrian forces out of Lebanon. In an interview with the BBC, he said the Christian side would not be responsible for any resumption of the fighting. He noted that an opportunity now exists to achieve a durable peace.

Pullout Needed for Dialogue

NC0110063789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said that dialogue is difficult before Syrian forces withdraw from Lebanon. In an interview with France Internationale radio, he said that the deputies and leaders in the occupied Lebanese areas take their instructions from Damascus while sitting at the negotiating table. 'Awn noted that those who oppose Syria's policy have died or fled.

'Awn Addresses Peace Committee March 1 Oct

NC0110122289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Speech by Lebanese Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn to a march organized by the Lebanese peace committee at B'abda Palace on 1 October—recorded]

[Excerpt] Welcome to B'abda, which still bears the marks of the destructive bombardment. However, as I have said before and as I have always believed, they can damage buildings but they will never undermine the Lebanese will.

On the occasion of your visit, I would like to point out to the Lebanese people that we have not abandoned or given up on any of our Lebanese goals. The current stage is meant to be one of negotiations, so let there be negotiations, because no one wages war for the sake of war, but for peace and for achieving national objectives. So if we can achieve these goals through negotiations, let it be so.

However, the basic and only target for us is to liberate the homeland by ensuring sovereignty and independence, and by regaining control of all the Lebanese territories. There cannot be any bargaining with the blood of our martyrs or with the wishes and pride of our people. Never. We will not accept today what we rejected yesterday, because our goals are indivisible, whether we accomplish them or not. We will not accept half dignity, half sovereignty, or half independence, because these goals cannot be subject to any partition. No half or relative freedom. There absolutely cannot be any half solutions or partition of any of these things. Either they are achieved in full, or not at all. [passage omitted]

Air Force Warplane Downed Off Al-Batrun Coast

Syrians Fire on Plane

NC0210080689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Security sources report that Syrian antiaircraft gunners in (Kafr 'Abida) fired at two Lebanese Air Force Hawker Hunters flying over the al-Madfun area shortly before 1000 today. One of the planes went into the sea but its pilot bailed out.

Reports Say Pilot Unharmed

NC0210083089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] A Lebanese military aircraft fell in the sea off al-Batrun coast, in the north, at about 1000 today. The pilot bailed out. According to initial reports, the pilot was not harmed, and the plane crashed because of a failure.

Landing Gear Blamed

NC0210085489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] A Lebanese Air Force Hawker Hunter crashed 2 miles off the al-Batrun coast while on a routine flight over Lebanese territorial waters this morning. The pilot tried several times to land at the base from which he had taken off but the landing gear did not work. The pilot was forced to bail out over the sea before the Hawker Hunter crashed. Immediately afterwards, Lebanese Air Force helicopters took off to rescue the pilot.

Conflicting Reports Carried

NC0210102789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Security sources said that two Hawker Hunter military aircraft belonging to the al-Yarzah army clique, flying at low altitude over nationalist positions in the al-Batrun area this morning in an attempt to attack these positions, were intercepted by antiaircraft fire. One of the two planes crashed off the al-Batrun coast. The pilot bailed out.

The information media in the eastern area carried conflicting reports about the plane crash. One report claimed that the two aircraft were on a routine mission over Lebanese territorial waters, and that one of them fell in the sea off al-Batrun after trouble developed in the landing gear.

Another report, quoting security sources, claimed that the Syrian forces opened fire at one of the aircraft over al-Madfun area, and added that the source of the fire was from antiaircraft positions in (Kafr 'Abida). The media again quoted security sources as saying that armed positions in al-Musaylihah castle opened fire on the plane.

Al-Shar' Confers With Counterparts in New York

Meets With Dumas

JN2909113289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met in New York yesterday with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al-Fattal. The talks dealt with bilateral relations between Syria and France, the situation in Lebanon after the cease-fire, the formation of the Lebanese security committee, and the efforts under way by the tripartite committee to resolve the Lebanese crisis in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolution. The talks also dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Earlier yesterday, Mr al-Shar' met at his place of residence in New York with Mr John Kelly, U.S. under secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs. The talks dealt with efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis, the need to follow the statement of the Arab tripartite committee, the meeting of the Lebanese Chamber of Representatives in al-Ta'if, the acknowledgement of the political and constitutional reforms, and the achievement of national reconciliation in Lebanon.

Talks With Baker

JN3009055789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker yesterday. The meeting was attended by Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; John Kelly, U.S. under secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs; Dennis Ross, director of the policy planning staff at the U.S. Department of State; and Miss Bushra Kanafani, Syrian charge d'affaires in Washington. The talks revolved around relations between Syria and the United States and the situation in the region, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situation in the Lebanon, and the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Earlier yesterday, Al-Shar' met with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. The talks revolved around the situation in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the ongoing efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis in addition to the situation in Namibia.

Al-Shar' also met with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The talks revolved around relations between Syria and the FRG, the situation in the region and Lebanon, the efforts of the tripartite committee to resolve the Lebanese crisis, and the international situation.

Al-Shar' also met with CSSR Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes. The talks dealt with the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the CSSR, the methods to develop them in all fields, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the ongoing efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis in addition to the international situation.

Al-Ahmar Receives Lebanese Party Chief

JN0110171489 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 1 Oct (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Dawud Baz, leader of the Supreme Council of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. Baz was accompanied by a number of the party's leadership and Supreme Council.

The meeting revolved around developments in the Lebanese arena and the dialogue and steps which are taking place through the deputies' meetings in al-Ta'if. The meeting also revolved around the tasks of the Arab tripartite committee entrusted with implementing the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of the dialogue's success in a manner that will lead to achieving political reform which will bring an end to political sectarianism, achieve equality and justice for all Lebanese, and liberate the occupied Lebanese territory in the south from the Zionist enemy.

Commentary on Lebanese Deputies' Meeting

JN3009151689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: All eyes are directed to the city of al-Ta'if, where the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies is beginning meetings to work out a national reconciliation formula based on reforming the Lebanese political system, intensifying and mobilizing efforts to liberate southern Lebanon from the Zionist occupiers, and guaranteeing Lebanon's unity and Arabism. The reconciliation formula must also restore normal life with justice and equality for all the sons of the one people without selfishness, nepotism, narrow interests, exclusive sectarian power, or the domination of a minority over the citizens and over the country's present and future.

The al-Ta'if meeting of Lebanon's deputies and representatives—a meeting taking place amid great hopes and in an atmosphere of optimism despite 'Awn's pressures on the East Beirut deputies, his extortion, and his exposed attempts to obstruct an Arab political solution—must rise to the national and pan-Arab responsibility dictated by the challenges of the situation and the efforts to end Lebanon's dilemma. It must lay the foundations and establish the components for rescuing Lebanon from its affliction of the past years of crisis and from the plot against its security and stability. This plot has exposed it to dangers and threats that have overshadowed the pan-Arab stand and the Arab nation's basic

and principal struggle against the Zionist enemy with its hostile expansionist schemes and conspiratorial ambitions.

There is no doubt that, by shouldering their responsibilities and proceeding primarily on the basis of the welfare and unity of both the country and its citizens, the Lebanese deputies will undoubtedly guarantee the process of rescuing Lebanon. By doing this, they will eliminate all causes of sedition and suffering with all the resultant destruction, death, and displacement, the fires of which have scorched all Lebanese regardless of their affiliation, faith, or inclination.

The principle on which the Lebanese people insist and to which they adhere, while looking forward to their future with hope and confidence, is that there should be no return from al-Ta'if before an agreement is reached on the topics of discussion. They also insist that the al-Ta'if meeting should end successfully so that national reconciliation can be reached to rescue Lebanon from its tribulation. A top priority is to free Lebanon from the tyrannical Israeli enemy and reach a solution that enables Lebanon to liberate its territory from the Zionist enemy.

Accordingly, Syria of Arabism, struggle, history, and an honorable pan-Arab stance, will continue to give Lebanon all possible help, support, and backing in defense of its destiny, unity, and role within the one Arab family. As leader al-Asad said, Syria will remain committed to supporting sisterly Lebanon in whatever enables it to safeguard its unity—land and people—to whatever rescues it from Israeli ambitions, and to whatever restores its genuine role in the Arab fold.

Syria has offered, and continues to offer, every possible sacrifice for Lebanon and its Arabism and unity. It will maintain this stance because Lebanon's security is part of Syria's security and because the distinctive relationship linking the people of Lebanon and Syria is too strong to be shaken or obscured by a summer cloud. It is stronger than all attempts to isolate Lebanon from its pan-Arab commitments and from its national and pan-Arab role. This has been confirmed by facts and events and there is no room for the divisionists, the Zionists, or the isolationists in Lebanon.

Paper Cited on Al-Ta'if Meeting, 'Awn's Stand

JN3009102789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Sep 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The al-Ta'if Meeting," TISHRIN says: The Lebanese people's attention is focused on the city of al-Ta'if. The Lebanese deputies have arrived there to hold a meeting after it became impossible to meet in Beirut as a result of 'Awn's devastating war and the pressures brought to bear by the military clique and the militias in East Beirut to prevent the election of a president and to obstruct ongoing efforts to realize a national reconciliation on the foundation of political and social reforms. Even though the Arab tripartite committee's document on reforms does not meet the minimum requirements of the stated demands of the nationalist and Islamic forces, the isolationist clique has placed obstacles before the al-Ta'if meeting. 'Awn gathered the deputies of East Beirut and dictated what they should and should not agree to. In fact, he set a ceiling for the political reforms that can be accepted and at the same time cast doubts on the soundness of the Arab initiative, which he considered a negative one. Information has been leaked saying that 'Awn refuses to limit the powers of the president of the republic and to expand the powers of the government. He, in fact, rejects the reforms in general before the so-called liberation.

After reviewing the recent statements made by the isolationist cliques, the newspaper says: It is very clear that the isolationist cliques accepted the Arab committee's plan unwillingly and as a result of internal, Arab, and international pressures. These cliques are only waiting for the right time to torpedo the plan and turn back the clock so that the fighting will escalate to destroy what is left of the Lebanese people's property and hopes.

TISHRIN says: Syria has welcomed the committee's plan and supported its trends. This plan, in the opinions of many people, does not change the balance of power in favor of the nationalist and Islamic forces that constitute the overwhelming majority in Lebanon. This shows the truthfulness of the Syrian and nationalist Lebanese approach toward ending the crisis and restoring security, stability, and tranquillity to the sisterly country. When the isolationists cast doubts on and place obstacles before the Arab plan, this only means that those isolationists do not seek Lebanon's and the Lebanese people's salvation.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The Lebanese deputies, paricularly the deputies of East Beirut who arrived in al-Ta'if, are called on to seek guidance from their consciences and speak the truth. They realize, more than anybody else, that a failure to achieve the desired reform program would mean the continuation of the present system—a system of privileges, injustice, coercion, and discrimination. Such a failure would mean renewing the civil war and turning Lebanon into fodder for a destructive war. The East Beirut deputies, who suffered as a result of the practices of 'Awn and the militias, are called upon to challenge the sword of terrorism and close ranks with their other brothers to discuss the reform plan, find common denominators, and formulate a real reconciliation that is based on the belief of equality, justice, and equal opportunities for the Lebanese homeland, the homeland of everybody, the homeland where there should be no sectarianism, but affiliation with and love for the land that must be defended. The East Beirut deputies are called on to approve—without hesitation—the real reform that will lead to a real reconciliation and clear the way for a firm Lebanese unity and collective

action to expel the Israeli occupation and reinforce relations with the Arab community, whose foremost member is Syria.

Press on Al-Ta'if Meeting, Hopes for Solution

JN0110074089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The al-Ta'if Meeting Is a Chance That Should Not Be Missed," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Lebanese people who have been plagued by shelling and devastation hope and wish to see the al-Ta'if meeting crowned with a success that allows national and pan-Arab interests to override other interests. Thus, an accord might emerge, reforms could materialize, and the march of security and peace could continue and lead to a solution conducive to an end of the infighting in Lebanon. Such a solution must view as a top priority the confrontation of the Israeli influence, which has been the reason behind the aggravation of the Lebanese crisis and also the calamities, devastation, and destruction which have befallen Lebanon and ruined Lebanese people of all affiliations and denominations.

TISHRIN adds: Hence, we must maintain caution and guard against all attempts to obstruct the implementation of the political solution, regardless of the ideas and views which might be advanced by the tools of explosion and agentry simply because their interests do not lie in seeing Lebanon recuperate. Besides, their interests are served if Lebanon remains in a state of imbalance and if it continues to face a chronic and intractable crisis that poses threats to its destiny and to the Arab stance as well as the basic and principal struggle of the Arab nation against the Zionist enemy.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH also comments on the meeting of the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if and the victory of the national will by saying: Past experiences have shown that the national will always triumphs. It has defeated all attempts made by the enemies of Arabism to consecrate the Israeli influence, and has thus defeated all the schemes which the Zionist enemy attempted to peddle through its tools and agents.

AL-BA'TH adds: The al-Ta'if meeting is the culmination of the victories scored by this will. Any attempt to obstruct developments or regress to the past is doomed to fail. The Lebanese people who have embraced a national option to which there is no alternative will not relinquish this option, regardless of the formidable sacrifices entailed, since a large number of martyrs and innocent people have fallen victim to the whims of those fighting for the survival of a corrupt and outdated system.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Therefore, the responsibility is grave and historic and gives the al-Ta'if meeting its historic importance. Through the results of this meeting, history and the people will judge the honest and the obstructionists. The outcome of this meeting will also be the criterion to be used by history and the people to pass judgment on those who are sincere to Lebanon, to its unity, and to its Arabism and also on those who have indentured themselves to the system of privileges in Lebanon.

Press Reviews Presence in Lebanon, Reconciliation

JN0210080889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0544 GMT 2 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today AL-BA'TH says: In al-Ta'if today, there is a historic opportunity before everyone, particularly before those who claim that they are captive to pressures and fears about developments after the al-Ta'if meeting. A Lebanese deputy addressed the chamber in the closed session and said: If you want to expedite the withdrawal of the Syrian forces, let us agree on the reforms. And then, you will find that the Syrian forces will withdraw on their own. The dispute is among us, not between Syria and Lebanon. In this atmosphere, no one can ask who is the victor and who is the vanquished. This is not a trade deal; it is an issue of homeland. Everyone will win when the homeland wins, and no one will ever be vanquished.

AL-BA'TH says: When the al-Ta'if meeting succeeds, the only losers are the enemies of Lebanon, particularly Israel. Israel will be the big loser in the Lebanese arena because it neither can stand in the face of the Arab solution nor can it annul Lebanon's ties with its Arab identity and affiliation. Israel's claim that it is impossible for the Lebanese people to live again within one state will also prove false.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH states: Will the Lebanese deputies prove that the Israeli wager is lost? Will they affirm that Israel is the big loser? This is their historic opportunity. Everyone is waiting and this waiting must not take a long time.

Under the headline "Al-Ta'if Meeting and the Historic Opportunity," TISHRIN says in the "Behind the News" column: The speeches delivered at the al-Ta'if meeting have called on the Lebanese deputies to rise to the level of their historic responsibility and discuss the document of national reconciliation with a positive spirit, honest cooperation, and earnest work to end the crisis that has stricken Lebanon, threatening its unity and independence. TISHRIN notes: The speeches of King Fahd, Al-Husayni, and Sa'ib Salam stressed that the dispute is among the Lebanese and only a political solution can restore security, tranquillity, and stability to the sister state.

TISHRIN adds: The fact is that Salam has placed his finger on the wound. This is because 'Awn, who usurped authority and led Lebanon to destruction, responded to the Arab committee's plan unwillingly, hoping to place obstacles to any progress that might be achieved. 'Awn

asked the East Beirut deputies to reject any substantial reform and to call for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces as a precondition to accept some slight changes that do not deal practically with the essence of the system of privileges and political sectarianism.

TISHRIN says: Some voices that attempted to divert the meetings from their natural course and to cast doubts, and those who call for a Syrian withdrawal—although few—are not expressing their conviction. They express their fear of 'Awn's terrorism and blackmail, particularly since they suffered when they criticized his mad and destructive war.

TISHRIN asserts that everyone in Lebanon is aware that the Syrian presence was the result and not the cause of the civil war and that this presence in the past protected the Christians. This was out of Syria's conviction that the homeland is for all its children: Christians and Muslims. This presence will protect them in the future from the dangers and destructive effects of 'Awn's stupidity.

TISHRIN states: Syria, through leader al-Asad, has always declared that it is for all Lebanese and that it wants Lebanon to stand up, resume its role, and emphasize the unity of its land and people. Syria has exerted tremendous efforts throughout the past 14 years to push the Lebanese people toward dialogue and understanding. Syria also made big sacrifices. It only asked the Lebanese to reach understanding and accord. It devoted all its capabilities and potential to defend the unity and territorial integrity of the sister state. Syria confronted the Israeli invaders, and Syrian blood mixed with Lebanese blood. Syria firmly confronted the Israeli partition plot.

TISHRIN says: Syria calls on the Lebanese deputies today, as it has done in the past, to abandon disputes, follow the course of reconciliation, and rise to the level of the big responsibility because agreement on the basic reforms alone can lead to reconciliation. There will be no security nor stability in Lebanon without reconciliation. The occupied part of Lebanon cannot be liberated and the Zionists cannot be expelled without the achievement of reconciliation. The required reforms should meet the ambitions and hopes of the Lebanese and lay down the bases of a society where equality and justice prevail and where sectarianism is defeated.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Seeks FRG Mediation in Conflict

LD0210100289 Hamburg DPA in German 0717 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul (DPA)—Afghan President Muhammad Najibullah has called on the Federal Republic to assume an intermediary role in the resolution of the Afghan conflict. In a conversation with the GERMAN PRESS AGENCY (DPA), Najibullah stated in Kabul that on the basis of the decades-long good and friendly relations of Germany and the Federal Republic with his country, Bonn should act as intermediary both among the enemy Afghan parties and between Afghanistan and the West.

In the sphere of economic cooperation, Najibullah courted increased investment. The most recent constitutional change allowed for a "multi-sector" economy in which private investment and a state sector are provided for. "Regarding the economic development of our country, we are open for foreign investments and to cooperate with it," Najibullah said. Afghanistan is "no socialist country." The Afghan Government hopes for FRG aid in the reconstruction of the destroyed country.

Najibullah spoke in favor of a speedy return of FRG Embassy personnel to Kabul. "Our traditionally good relations should provide us with a new lease on life, and we would welcome the return of Bonn's ambassador to Kabul," he stated. Cooperation, moreover, in the cultural sphere could begin again. "Here we have the Amani secondary school. It was run by Germans, and they should return to continue their work," Najibullah said.

During the conversation Najibullah spoke very firmly about the political situation in the country. In reply to a question on whether he would resign in order to hand over the government to the ex-Afghan King Zahir Shah, he stated that this was no solution. "No one alone can secure peace", Najibullah said. Zahir Shah could however play a "special role" in the process of national reconciliation but no "person, group, or party" should be excluded from this process. "We are in a process of democratic change. We want a democratic, free, independent, even demilitarized Afghanistan."

Najibullah confidently assessed the military situation in Afghanistan. "At the moment two-thirds of the mujahidin commanders... have practically laid down their weapons." Peace prevails in the country, if one disregards the provinces at the border with Pakistan. Supplies for the capital are guaranteed for the coming winter. "The bottlenecks in supplies will not happen again," Najibullah said. "We have laid in stocks," he stated.

Foreign Minister, Shevardnadze Meet at UN

LD2909212689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, said at the 44th UN General Assembly that aggression and interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan has not ended. Despite the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and Afghanistan's strict observance of the Geneva accords, the accords have been ignored by Pakistan.

He added that 18 types of modern weapons have been supplied to the armed opposition from the 15th of February through the end of August. The Afghan foreign minister said the number of training camps set up by the opposition is now 180. Thousands of civilians are being killed daily as a result of the extremists' missiles. This is the kind of state terrorism that has been condemned by the UN General Assembly and the Nonaligned Movement conference held in Belgrade.

He stressed the need for peace forces in Afghanistan and called the U.S. policy on Afghanistan unrealistic. The foreign minister added that the enormous amount of arms supplied to the Afghan opposition will not serve the interests of the United States in the region.

According to another report, 'Abdul Wakil met and conferred today with USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York. In the course of these talks the foreign ministers of both countries emphasized that in the 8 months since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the survival and stability of the Republic of Afghanistan has been satisfactory.

The powerful policy of the Republic of Afghanistan toward a peaceful solution of the internal issue of this country is considered as the only path toward ending war and bloodshed. The talks conducted between the foreign ministers of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union along with the representatives of other countries in New York, and the sound and favorable condition [as heard] in connection with the Afghan delegation in the UN General Assembly made it more significant that the survival of the Afghan Government is increasingly being noted at the international level. Despite this, there is growing concern over the violations of the Geneva accords with regard to the supply of U.S. weapons to the opposition through Pakistani territory.

The two sides stressed the need to consolidate the role of the United Nations and its secretary general to seek ways to restore peace in Afghanistan.

Further on Clashes Between Kabul Forces, Rebels

BAKHTAR on 29 Sep Situation

LD2909104789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 28, BAKHTAR—As a result of the telling blows of the detachments and contingents of the Armed Forces based in the Khowst Grand District the morale of the joint forces of the enemy i.e. Pakistani militarists, Saudi Wahhabis and extremists has remarkably weakened, an authorised military source said.

The war-mongers who came under the pressures of the Armed Forces from the Tanay direction were compelled to retreat. In the eastern flank of the Khowst Grand District active combat activities of the enemy was not observed during the past 24 hours.

The enemy attacked Ismail Khail [placename as received], Tanai, Towr Ghar, Yaqubi and city of Khowst with heavy armaments killing a servicemen and wounding two others.

The Armed Forces retaliated attacks of the enemy and killed 17 enemies. Several others were wounded. Large quantity of arms and ammunition of the enemy destroyed. [sentence as received]

The Nangarhar garrison is intensifying its positions there. Some of the detachments there carried out mopping up operations in the Sorkh Rud, Kahan, and Katarghai [placename as received] directions in the province. Eleven enemies were killed and 19 others wounded.

According to reports reached from Qandahar and Herat Provinces, 4 enemies were killed and 4 others wounded during the operations of the Armed Forces in those provinces. Two servicemen were wounded during the operations as well. Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy were captured.

Mujahidin Destroy 5 Planes

BK2909132589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have destroyed five aircraft of the Kabul regime in Paktia Province. These include two transport planes. One of the planes was shot down when it was landing at Khowst Airport with supplies.

Meanwhile, the Kabul administration's link with Khowst through the land route is reported to have been disconnected and the road leading to Gardeyz has also been cut off.

Rebels Destroy Ammunition Depots

BK3009062589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin have destroyed two arms and ammunition depots of the Kabul regime and damaged an electricity generator during their fighting in the Sarowbi area in the past few days.

Meanwhile, according to reports from Jalalabad, in the Samar Kheyl area the mujahidin turned back an attack of the Kabul regime forces that was attempting to capture strategic positions.

Plane Crash at Jalalabad Airport

BK3009133689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Islamabad, Sep 30 (AFP)—A fire blazed out of control for more than three hours at Jalalabad Airport in eastern Afghanistan after an Air Force plane crashed into an ammunition depot, resistance sources said Saturday [30 September].

They said the fire on Friday caused heavy damage to airport facilities adding that a jet took off soon after the blast but it also crashed.

The blaze erupted early afternoon when a reconnaissance aircraft "mysteriously" crashed into the airport's main ammunition depot as it was coming in to land. Arms and ammunition stockpiled at the depot exploded causing panic at the facility, they said.

Secondary explosions continued to echo around the airport late into the night while missiles from the depot landed in a wide radius around the airport.

Mujahidin Fire Missiles at Kabul

LD0110164189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Pakistan-supported criminals today fired U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas and crowded places of Kabul Province, and killed and injured a number of our compatriots.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that the traitorous extremist criminals, following the instructions of the sinister terrorist plans of the United States and Pakistan, fired 15 surface-to-surface long range missiles from the surroundings of Kabul city, at the residential and populated areas. As a result of their unforgivable and shameful action, 10 of our compatriots were killed including women and children, and a number were injured.

A missile landed on the Red Crescent organization, whose personnel serve our poor people 24 hours a day, and bathed in blood a number of personnel and visitors of that department. The injured were transfered to hospitals immediately and were taken in for treatment. Also material damage was inflicted on our compatriots as a result of these missiles.

Kabul Hit by Rocket Attacks

BK0210023889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Mujahidin forces have carried out a new series of rocket attacks on the Afghan capital, Kabul, and are maintaining their pressure on the city. More than a dozen rockets hit Kabul Airport, one fell at the Ministry of Minerals and Industry, while others landed near the (Sarangai) police force headquarters.

The mujahidin have also intensified their operations in Samangan Province in northern Afghanistan. They attacked a military convoy at (Kowt-e Mazar), inflicting heavy casualties on the Kabul regime forces. They also captured the Qalacheh post and killed several KHAD [security service] agents. They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition there.

Bangladesh

Pakistan's Bhutto Arrives; Greeted by Ershad

BK0110125589 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan was given a warm and hearty welcome when she arrived in Dhaka Sunday [1 October] afternoon on a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh. As a special aircraft of Pakistan Air Force carrying Benazir Bhutto came to halt at the Zia International Airport, a 19-gun salute boomed in the air to herald the arrival of the distinguished guest from Pakistan.

President and Begum Raushan Ershad received Benazir Bhutto and her husband Asif Ali Zardari at the airport. [passage omitted]

Confers With Ershad

BK0210074789 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Official talks between Bangladesh and Pakistan were held at the International Conference Center in Dhaka today. President Ershad led the Bangladesh side, while the visiting Pakistan prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, led her country's delegation at the talks. The two leaders reviewed the state of bilateral ties and explored areas to enhance the cooperation in different fields. They also reviewed the global, political, and economic scenario with particular focus on the regional situation. The two leaders discussed ways and means to further consolidate the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC. The Pakistan prime minister is the current chairperson of the association.

Earlier in the morning, the Pakistan prime minister visited the national mausoleum at Sawar. She laid the wreath at the mausoleum as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs of independence of the country. In the afternoon, the distinguished guest will attend the civic reception by the Dhaka Municipal Corporation at the north plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan [National Assembly building].

Ershad Enacts Amendment Limiting President's Rule

BK0110131089 Paris AFP in English 1125 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 1 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh on Sunday [1 October] put into force a [word indistinct] constitutional amendment limiting the term of a serving president and providing for election of a vice president. The official BSS news agency carried a presidential decree which said the president was exercising his authority to enact the ninth amendment effective October 1. It gave no immediate details.

The order, which came hours before the arrival of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on a three-day official visit, prompted speculation that Mr. Ershad might call a presidential election some time next year.

The 300-member national Parliament had on July 10 unanimously passed the government-sponsored amendment limiting the president to two five-year terms and simultaneous election of a vice president [words indistinct]. Mr. Ershad's present five-year term is due to end in 1991.

The act, approved by Mr. Ershad the next day, was to have taken automatic effect on March 1, 1991, unless implemented earlier by an executive order.

The Constitution had previously put no limit to the president's term, and under the current system the vice president was appointed by the president and stayed in office as long as he enjoyed the confidence of the president.

Mr. Ershad, 59, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup, was elected president in October 1986 in a controversial election boycotted by major opposition parties.

Mr. Ershad said after the amendment bill was placed before Parliament in July that it "would strengthen the democratic institution and maintain continuity of the democratic process."

Political observers here have pointed to Mr. Ershad's frequent trips to the countryside in recent weeks as possible preparation for a snap presidential election under the new constitutional provisions.

In August, Mr. Ershad appointed Moudud Ahmed as the country's new vice president and named Kazi Zafar Ahmed to replace him as prime minister in a cabinet reshuffle.

Prime Minister Terms Nepal Visit 'Success'

BK2909165189 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, who has returned from Kathmandu, described his visit to Nepal as a great success. Addressing a news conference at Ziaul Haq International Airport on his return to Dhaka this afternoon, he said the visit will strengthen the cordial relations between the two countries. Kazi Zafar said he has assured Nepal that it can count on the friendship of Bangladesh by supporting the Nepalese in times of adversity and prosperity.

The prime minister exchanged views with Nepalese leaders on bilateral, regional, and international issues. Matters relating to the expansion of bilateral trade and commerce were also discussed at length. The commerce secretaries of the two countries identified some goods that will be exchanged immediately. There is a ready market in Nepal for Bangladeshi products, such as tea, medicine, paper, cotton fabrics and saris, electric bulbs, and transformers. Bangladesh can also import lentils, turpentine, [word indistinct], and medicinal herbs from Nepal. Both sides decided to encourage more trade by land routes. Nepal has given assurances that no discriminatory taxes or excise duties will be levied on Bangladeshi items. An agreed minute on trade was signed between the two countries. The two commerce secretaries signed the agreed minute. The Nepalese Government requested that Bangladesh provide aviation fuel [words indistinct]. It has also been proposed to encourage package tours of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Tibet.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said that Bangladesh has accepted the Nepalese request for more facilities in Bangladesh medical institutions for postgraduate studies for Nepalese students. In return, Nepal will open educational facilities to Bangladeshi students at Tribhuvan University. The prime minister said his discussions in Nepal also covered the activities of the joint task force on flood control. The task force will submit its report after completing its survey. The Nepalese prime minister, Marich Man Singh Shrestha, has accepted Kazi Zafar's invitation to visit Bangladesh at a suitable time.

Shanti Bahini Suspects in 'Murder' of 7 Tribals

BK3009081089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0559 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 30 (AFP)—Security Personnel in Bangladesh's troubled southeastern Chittagong Hills recovered seven decomposed bodies of tribal fishermen who were chopped to death, newspapers here reported Saturday.

The reports said the bodies were recovered late Thursday from the banks of the Karnaphuli River at Dhanpata village in Rangamati District, bordering India's Mizoram State.

The "gruesome murder" of the fishermen, all between 25 and 30 years of age, may have been the work of the outlawed Shanti Bahini rebels, security sources were quoted by the reports as saying. The reports added that an investigation into the killings was under way.

Meanwhile, a rebel was killed Friday in an encounter with security forces in Panchari Sub-district of Khagrachari Hill District, reports said.

The Shanti Bahini rebels are waging a 15-year bush war for tribal autonomy in the rugged 13,000 square kilometer (5,200 square mile) region and expulsion of Bengali-speaking Muslim settlers from the area.

6 Killed, 30 Injured in Ambush in Chittagong

BK3009122289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Sept 30 (AFP)—Six people were killed and 30 injured on Saturday [30 September] when a fleet of two passenger launches and several other boats was ambushed in southeastern Bangladesh, security sources here said.

Guerrillas of the outlawed Shanti Bahini tribal group sprayed the fleet with heavy machine guns as it approached the Juraichari Sub-District of Rangamati in the troubled Chittagong Hills, killing four people instantly, the sources said. Two critically injured passengers died on their way to a local hospital where the 30 injured were being treated, the sources said.

The fleet was heading to nearby Langadu Sub-District with more than 100 passengers. The rebels withdrew into surrounding dense forest after the attack.

Earlier, security sources had cited first reports as indicating that five people were killed and 25 injured when a time bomb went off in a passenger launch. [passage omitted]

India

1st Indigenously Built Submarine Launched

BK3009085889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The first indigenously built submarine, INS [Indian Navy Ship] Sharki, for the Indian Navy was launched at a function in Bombay today by Mrs Sonia Gandhi, where the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was the chief guest. The submarine, named after a kind of fish found in the Andaman and Nicobar waters, is a conventional-type submarine built by the state-owned Mazagaon Docks, Bombay, at a cost of 150 crore rupees.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister strongly condemned those who criticized expansion of the Indian Navy. He said India would have no compromise so far as her defense preparedness is concerned. The prime minister said India should strive hard to achieve self reliance on production front, especially the defense production. We should not be enslaved by the imported technology, rather we should improve upon it to suit Indian conditions and requirements, Mr Gandhi said. [passage omitted]

Government Plans Another Prithvi Test Launch

BK2909130989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] The government is planning another test launch of Prithvi [surface-to-surface missile] next month. The Defense Research and Development Organization is

planning more such launches this year to test the efficiency of the weapon delivery system. Experiments will be conducted in different ranges of the country to evaluate their performances. This information was given to the members of the consultative committee attached to the Defense Ministry in New Delhi today.

Commentary Lauds Successful Missile Launch

BK2909122989 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Commander Uday Bhasker commentary]

[Text] The successful launch of the surface-to-surface missile, Prithvi, on Wednesday [27 September] is an event that the nation can be justifiably proud of. Prithvi, India's first surface-to-surface missile, SSM, it may be recalled, had been earlier tested in February last year, and this launch differed from the one in last February. This launch may be described as a successful developmental trial and this distinction assumes considerable significance while developing weapons system, more so in the case of missiles. To briefly recapitulate, Prithvi is part of the Defense Research and Development Organization's [DRDO's] integrated guided missile program which incidentally includes the long-range missile Agni that was successfully launched in May this year. In addition to these two missiles, the program also includes surface-to-air missiles, Trishul and Akash, and the anti-tank missile, Nag, all of which are in different stages of development.

Missiles are generally classified by their maximum range; that is, up to 500 km, they are shot-range; 500 to 5,500 km are intermediate-range; and those above 5,500 km are cruise missile. By this token, Prithvi has a potential range of 250 km. It may be recalled [as heard] a short-range surface-to-surface missile, and it can be fired from a surface platform like a land-based missile battery. The single-stage liquid propellant missile is fitted with an advanced strapped-on inertial guidance system which incorporates the latest in control and computer technology.

One of the special features of the Prithvi is the closed-loop guidance system that controls the missile, taking into account the prevailing battle environment and the exact location of the target. This characteristics gives the Prithvi an edge over comparable missiles and the fact that this has been achieved by the expertise available within the country must be commended.

India, because of its avowed nonaligned stand, has had to more or less go it alone in this field. Thus the integrated guided missile program was launched in 1983, and the achievements in the different types of missiles have been very impressive. India with its successful launches is the only developing nation, apart from China, to demonstrate its indigenous capability in missile technology. Having had to start from scratch almost, the Prithvi launch of February 1988 was an experimental launch. At this stage, India was still proving its ability to master the technology of launching missiles capable vehicles, and this has been then established. [sentence as heard] From the experimental stage, the missile has to move to the developmental stage where all the myriad subsystems have to be integrated in what may be called as the mission role.

Missiles and their proliferation have an interesting history. As it happens, the first military leader to exploit the potential of the rocket, the ancestor of the missile, was none other than Hyder Ali of Mysore [Indian ruler]. He and his son, Tipu Sultan, used metal-clad rockets with telling effects against the British. And from the battle fields of Srirangapatnam, the weapon moved to Europe where it was perfected into today's missile. While the two superpowers have the largest inventory of missiles, what is alarming is that there has been a considerable proliferation of missile among the developing nations of the world.

Due to a variety of compulsions, including the commercial aspect, missile developing nations have eagerly supplied either missiles or its technology to a large number of nations. In the year 1988-89, the outlay on defense R and D [research and development] has been 6,460 million rupees. That is nearly 5 percent of the overall defense budget. Most nations that are missile-capable spend up to 10 percent of their defense budget on R and D, and this makes the achievement of the DRDO all the more laudable. Apart from the DRDO public sector units, the private industry and leading technical institutions have also been involved in the development of the Prithvi. And from February 1988 to today, the indigenous content of the missile and its guidance technology have appreciably increased, thereby making this achievement very significant in moving toward self-reliance.

5 Killed, 150 Injured in Kashmir Violence

BK2909132489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Sept 29 (AFP)—At least five people died in police firing and more than 150 people including 90 officers were injured Friday [29 September] in large-scale violence in the troubled Kashmir valley, officials said here.

Authorities deployed the Army, ordered soldiers to shoot rioters on sight in the cities of Srinagar, Anantnag and Sopore and clamped an indefinite curfew in the region to prevent further attacks on Hindu homes and government buildings, the officials said.

The latest round of violence in the sensitive frontier region was sparked by the arrest a day ago of militant People's League leader Shabir Shah, who has been at the forefront of a year-old "armed struggle" to liberate Kashmir.

Moslem militants fought at least six gun battles with police in Srinagar, the summer capital of the Himalayan

state, Friday where one person died and two other protestors received serious gunshot wounds, a state government spokesman said.

Federal paramilitary troops exchanged gunfire with protestors who attacked the residence of Jammu and Kashmir information, hospitality and protocol minister Ali Mohammad Sagar in central Srinagar.

Police also fired on Moslem mobs in Anantnag, 45 kilometres (27 miles) from here and the home town of Mr. Shah, killing three league supporters. Another rioter was shot dead in Sopore, the spokesman said.

Army soldiers backed by crack paramilitary border security force troopers fanned out in the three cities to reinforce the police amid reports that 90 officers had been injured, 19 of them seriously, in street battles.

Authorities also arrested some 100 People's League supporters and charged them with rioting, plundering and participating in acts of arson, officials said here.

There was no immediate report of the extent of damage in the day-long violence in the Moslem-dominated state.

Life came to a standstill in the entire Kashmir valley as a general strike called by Moslem secessionist groups gripped the region which once enjoyed a reputation as a tourist paradise. Shops and businesses closed and transport went off the roads.

Mr. Shah, who carried a 25,000 rupee (1,515 U.S. dollar) reward on his head, was intercepted and arrested while driving to Jammu city. He was flown in here late Thursday by an Indian Air Force helicopter and was being interrogated. He is alleged to have links with Pakistan, which opposes Kashmir's accession to India and holds the northern third of the territory. [passage omitted]

Kashmir Chief Threatens Action Against 'Militants'

BK3009092589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said that the government will deal sternly with those who are trying to disturb peace in the Kashmir valley. Talking to AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, Ajit Singh, in Jammu today, he said the security forces have done a commendable job in nabbing some of the prominent militants and very soon all of them will be behind the bars.

The chief minister said the security forces are working in a planned and coordinated way to foil the designs of antinational and secessionist forces.

Dr Abdullah said the situation in the Kashmir valley is fully under control, though curfew continues in Anantnag and Sopore.

4 Killed by Police Fire

BK2909144789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, Anantnag and Sopore towns have been placed under curfew following some violent incidents. Four persons were killed and 20 injured when the police opened fire to disperse miscreants.

Police Open Fire To Disperse Mob

BK3009164689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the police had to open fire to disperse stone throwing mob at Nawabazar in Srinagar today. An eight-year-old boy, who was hit by a stray bullet, later died in hospital. Elsewhere, about 50 people were injured in different incidents. An Army police person was seriously injured in stone throwing incident.

Curfew continued in Sopore and Anantnag without any relaxation since yesterday. The Army was called in Sopore to bring the situation under control.. Some instances of arson have also been reported from the valley.

2 Killed, 18 Injured in Madhya Pradesh Violence

BK3009164089 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, indefinite curfew was clamped on the district town of Khargone today following large-scale violence in which 2 persons were killed and 18 injured.

UNI, quoting official sources, reports that one person was killed in a bomb explosion, while another was killed in a separate incident. Seven of the injured have been hospitalized. Police fired in the air to control the situation.

Meanwhile, curfew is continuing in Mhow Town near Indore as a precautionary measure, though the situation in the town is peaceful and completely under control. The curfew was clamped in the city yesterday evening following incidents of stone throwing on a religious procession.

4 'Hard-Core Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK2909133389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] In Punjab, four hard-core terrorists were killed and one injured in an encounter with the security forces in Jullundur District this morning.

According to an official spokesman, the encounter followed a raid on the terrorist hideout in Bagila village in Nakodar area. Six rifles, including five AK-47's, one

pistol, and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorists. One of the killed has been identified as a dreaded terrorist, Bohar Singh, alias Billa, of Ferozepore who was carrying a reward of 30,000 rupees on his head.

Iran

Further Reportage on Velayati Visit to UN

Confers With France's Dumas

LD2909122889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati, who is in New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly, continued his meetings with foreign ministers from various countries on the sidelines of this assembly. He conferred with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas today. We have a report on this to which we draw your attention:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] Roland Dumas, Foreign Minister of France, conferred with our country's foreign minister, Velayati, earlier this morning. In the course of this meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, four main topics were discussed including bilateral relations, the trend in progress in implementing Security Council Resolution 598, the situation in Lebanon, and the issue of Afghanistan.

On the issue of Lebanon, which covered a significant part of the talks, Velayati declared the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in the face of Lebanon's situation, the need to change the situation in that country, alter the Constitution, hold a general election, and establish a government in line with the desire of the majority of the people. The French foreign minister, while referring to the IRI's determining role in Lebanbon, stressed the need to restore peace in the region.

In connection with the Iraqi regime's obstruction on implementing Resolution 598, Velayati emphasized: So far, the IRI has offered full cooperation at the United Nations and the Security Council and has even accepted the secretary general's 4-point plan of 1 October 1989 as a basis for implementing other articles of the resolution. Because of a lack of cooperation and obstructionism by the other side, the first step, toward implementing the resolution, that is, the withdrawal [of forces], has not yet taken place.

The French foreign minister, while stressing the need for the full implementation of Resolution 598, also announced that France totally supports the UN secretary general's efforts.

This morning's meeting between the French foreign minister and our country's foreign minister, in the wake of other similar meetings between Velayati and his counterparts from the European Economic Community [EEC], is particularly important because it further exposes the failure of Britain's imposed policies on the EEC. [passage omitted]

Most of the EEC members, whose ambassadors returned to Tehran months ago, have now made contacts with Iran through their foreign ministers. During his stay in New York our country's foreign minister has met and held talks with at least half of the foreign ministers from EEC countries. This demonstrates that the policies imposed on the EEC by Britain have definitely failed to be as effective as London officials desire. [end recording]

Meets Canadian, Greek Counterparts

LD2909122689 Tehran IRNA in English 1155 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] New York, Sept. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Thursday [28 September] that the support of the European Community (EEC) especially that of Britain for the conspiracy behind the publication of the Satanic Verses made world Muslims wrathful.

Velayati who is currently here to take part in the 44th UN General Assembly, made the remark in a meeting with the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joseph Clark.

He added that Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious edict] on execution of Salman Rushdie, the Indian born British author of "The Satanic Verses" was an Islamic verdict which could not be changed.

Elsewhere Velayati said as long as the Iraqi forces are occupying Iranian territories, negotiations would not lead anywhere. "We have not refrained from any cooperation with the U.N. secretary general but it has been proved that unilateral cooperation is not effective," said Velayati commenting on the trend of the peace talks. The two sides also discussed the Lebanese crisis during which Clark expressed hope that all countries would try to return tranquility to Lebanon.

In another meeting, Velayati discussed Tehran-Athens mutual ties, Iran-Iraq peace talks and international developments with his Greek counterpart Karolos Papoulias. "Iran's stand is completely clear and we believe that the resolution should be implemented," said Velayati regarding the trend of Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Velayati also met with his Thai, South Korean and Sri Lankan counterparts during which expansion of Tehran's ties in political and economic fields and the trend of Iran-Iraq peace talks were discussed.

Continues Meetings

NC3009105989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati met with the foreign ministers of the FRG, Brazil, Bangladesh, and Norway in New York yesterday. Mr Velayati and the Brazilian

foreign minister discussed relations between the two countries and implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. The Brazilian foreign minister hoped that his country as present head of the Security Council will endeavor to strive for the implementation of Resolution 598 and to support the UN secretary general's efforts.

According to IRNA, Dr Velayati also met Hans-Dietrich Genscher. He considers Iraqi withdrawal from Iranian territory the first step to peace and to implementing Security Council Resolution 598. In his recent meeting with the UN secretary general, the Mr Genscher declared the FRG's complete support of Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts to implement the resolution in its entirety. In this meeting, economic and international cooperation between the two countries was also discussed and reviewed and the FRG minister expressed his country's interest in participating in Iran's developmental and industrial programs.

Participates in Interview

LD2909210389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who is in New York in order to participate in the annual session of the UN General Assembly, took part in an all-media interview at the United Nations this evening. According to the Central News Unit interview, our country's foreign minister asked the UN Security Council to play a more active role in supporting the efforts being undertaken for the implementation of Resolution 598.

He added: The Security Council acts with hesitation, even in making decisions on simple issues, like renewing the period for the cease-fire supervision forces' mission on the borders of Iran and Iraq. This is proceeding under conditions in which, because of the Iraqi regime's obstructionism and the nonwithdrawal of the regime's forces to international borders, the UN forces are unable to perform their duties, which are to supervise the withdrawal of forces to international borders and the cease-fire on the borders because the points of contact between the forces in some regions is inside Iranian territory.

In another part of the interview, the foreign minister announced: Instead of wasting time, spreading lies, and deceiving public opinion, Iraq should embark on the full implementation of Resolution 598, along with Iran and under the auspices of the UN secretary general, without preconditions or delay.

Mr Velayati stressed: Despite the untiring efforts of the UN secretary general and his colleagues, and despite the praiseworthy activities of the UNIIMOG [UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group] forces, so far only half of the first clause of the resolution has been implemented. Our country's foreign minister announced in the interview that Iraq has tried, along with its disregard for international laws, to take advantage of the humanitarian issue of POW's in order to distract public opinion from its refusal to implement Resolution 598.

In conclusion, Mr Velayati said: Since last July, we have been prepared to implement all the clauses of Resolution 598 without preconditons, including the exchange of POW's. It is for this reason that we have accepted the UN secretary general's proposal.

Addresses UN General Assembly

NC3009093589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent 'Abdorrashidi report from London on 30 September—recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati delivered a speech to the international community last night at the UN General Assembly. He paid his respects to the pure spirit of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, remembering him as the leader of the Islamic world who ceaselessly fought to shatter the bonds of colonialism, exploitation, tyranny, and injustice and termed his demise an unfortunate loss to the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Islam, and to freedom lovers all over the world.

The foreign minister then addressed the international situation and presented Iran's position. Because the Nonaligned Movement declared 1990 as the decade of international rights, he recalled the United States' unlawful acts against Iran, citing the confiscation of Iran's assets, attacks on its oil terminals, and the shooting of the Iranian passenger airliner over the Persian Gulf as the most conspicuous examples of the tyrant's lack of adherence to law.

He then explained the cultural domination by world oppression and discussed the destructive scourge of drug smuggling and drug abuse. He elaborated on Iran's relentless campaign against smuggling narcotics and added: In view of the nature of this phenomenon, there is no chance to combat effectively the international drug mafia without international cooperation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran especially welcomes international efforts.

The foreign minister then referred to the text of the (?charter) on arms control on chemical weapons and said: Eight years of silence and indifference by the international community on the use of chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran gave governments like Iraq the opportunity to establish vast arsenals of chemical and microbiological weapons and to expand them in quantity and quality. As the greatest victim of the recent use of chemical weapons, our country believes that the only remedy is the complete destruction of chemical weapons and that any short-term expedient, such as preventing the proliferation of chemical weapons, will not be effective.

Our foreign minister regretted that the substance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 has not been implemented and said: In the course of a year, Iraq has refrained from taking the first step toward fulfilling its commitments according to the UN Charter and Resolution 598: withdrawal from Iranian territory. It is endeavoring to capitalize on its illegal occupation of Iranian territory to attain its illegal expansionist desires, for which it launched an aggressive war against its neighbor. Moreover, Iraq is trying to raise the questions of the POW's and to deceive international public opinion with its misleading propaganda on this humanitarian issue.

Dr Velayati said: Such an (?attitude) toward implementing the substance of the resolution is unacceptable. Withdrawal of forces is necessary for the swift implementation of the resolution, even prior to talks. We are prepared to hold direct talks under the UN secretary general's supervision. The real problem is Iraq's refusal to implement the resolution. Until such time that a serious attitude is adopted on this dangerous and unlawful Iraqi position, it is too farfetched to anticipate progress in the resolution's implementation, and discussion of peripheral and trivial issues will not yield any results. This is the Security Council's responsibility, in view of the nature of the resolution's commitments.

Our foreign minister said: Iraq should know that peace benefits both countries as well as the region. The continuation of the situation of neither war nor peace can push the region toward a gradual resumption of tension. Our intention for peace between the two countries and the establishment of complete tranquillity in the Persian Gulf region is sincere and real.

Speaking of the Persian Gulf situation and the need for safeguarding its peace and security by the regional states, our foreign minister explained the situation in Afghanistan, Palestine, and Lebanon. He stressed the inalienable right of the people of Afghanistan to forge their own destiny and to decide on the future government in Afghanistan. Regarding the issue of Lebanon, he said that Iran emphasizes the preservation of independence, territorial integrity of the Lebanese people, and the right of the majority to decide its destiny; and Iran supports the steadfastness of the Islamic national forces of Lebanon against the plots and aggression of the Zionist regime.

Addresses News Conference

LD30091106B9 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] United Nations, Sept. 30, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Friday that Iran has accepted U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's new proposal on the withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognized borders and on the exchange of POW's but said Iraq has so far remained silent in this respect.

Speaking in a press conference Velayati said that according to the new proposal Iraq must withdraw from the Iranian territory within 15 days and all POW's must be exchanged within three months.

The U.N. secretary general has made the new proposal on the basis of the two countries' stance on the trend of the peace talks, Velayati told reporters.

He stressed that during the past year Iran fully cooperated with the U.N. secretary general but Iraq's obstructions has so far hindered progress of the peace talks. "Therefore", Velayati noted, "Iraq's refusal to accept the secretary general's new peace plan will be an indication of Iraq's tendency to create tension in the region."

On direct negotiations between Iran and Iraq, Velayati said "Iran is ready for direct talks, as it has done in the past year under the supervision of the U.N. secretary general. We are also ready to study and accept proposals of the secretary general and his aides and also welcome Jan Eliasson's forthcoming visit to the region".

On Iran-U.S. relations he said, "if the Americans seek a better atmosphere for changing the relations, they should change their attitude, releasing Iranian assets frozen in the U.S. could be considered as a sign of change in attitude."

Asked about Western hostages in Lebanon, Velayati reasserted Iran's opposition to hostage taking adding that Lebanon was an independent country out of Iran's control. He stressed that Iran in the past few years had greatly helped countries which had hostages and would continue its efforts in this connection in future.

As for Iran's relations with some Arab countries including Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, Velayati said: "We do not oppose improvement of relations with most Arab countries although we have certain considerations for some Arab regimes."

As for ties with France, he told reporters that both Iran and France were after expansion and improvement of bialteral ties noting that in his Thursday meeting with his French counterpart Roland Dumas the two sides were optimistic about the settlement of the existing disputes.

Velayati reiterated Iran's full support for the Palestinian people and their uprising in the occupied lands, noting that any plan contrary to their legitimate rights would be unacceptable for Iran.

He once again emphasized Iran's decisive stance against the publication of blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses' and said that the issue of the British-born Indian writer of the book Salman Rushdie was an Islamic issue and that the late Imam Khomeyni's fatwa (religious verdict) in this connection was for the whole Islamic world.

Meets With Perez de Cuellar

LD3009120989 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] United Nations, Sept. 30, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Iran-Iraq peace negotiations before leaving New York Friday night.

Velayati was here to attend the 44th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly where he took the floor Friday.

Perez de Cuellar informed Velayati that his special envoy Jan Eliasson will tour the Persian Gulf region next month to prepare the ground for holding of a new round of peace negotiations. The U.N. chief stressed that he enjoyed the Security Council's support in his peace efforts.

Velayati briefed the U.N. chief on Iran's viewpoints over the issue. "The Security Council should, through serious actions and by breaking its silence (over Iraqi violation of the Resolution 598) help implementation of the Resolution 598," Velayati stressed. "We all must follow up the issue more seriously, otherwise the state of neither peace, nor war cannot last for very long", he added.

Velayati also welcomed Eliasson's forthcoming visit to the region but stressed that Eliasson must have at his disposal the necessary tools for implementation of the Resolution 598.

Confers With Shevardnadze

LD3009133989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] In the course of his meetings with foreign ministers from other countries during the 44th UN General Assembly in New York, Foreign Minister Velayati conferred with Eduard Shevardnadze, Soviet foreign minister, yesterday.

During the meeting, referring to the extension of the mission of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group on the Iran-Iraq border, the Soviet foreign minister said: We endorse the efforts of the secretary general to implement UN Resolution 598.

During a meeting between Velayati and the Indian foreign minister, which was held yesterday afternoon, after reviewing trade ties between the two countries, it was agreed that a joint commercial committee will be set up at the ministerial level in Tehran, on 26 of the next Christian month [presumably October].

Velayati Returns From UN; Grants Interview

NC0110073389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent Khameneh on 1 October in Tehran—recorded]

[Text] [Khameneh] Mr Velayati, you participated in the 44th session of the UN General Assembly and held meetings and talked with foreign ministers from over 40 countries. On what did the General Assembly focus? How do you assess your trip and the talks you held?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In addition to my participation in the UN General Assembly session and bilateral talks I had with foreign ministers of other countries during my New York visit, we met with the UN secretary general regarding Resolution 598. In interviews with press agencies, we elaborated on the Islamic Republic of Iran's position. The Iran-Iraq peace talks were invariably mentioned in talks with heads of states or foreign ministers, and all of them hoped that Resolution 598 would be implemented.

The UN secretary general submitted a report to the Security Council at the beginning of this week, which was in fact a synopsis of Iran-Iraq talks during the past year. In this report he stated his views frankly and emphasized the need for the Iraqi forces to withdraw from Iranian territory and the exchange of POW's as the two most important, outstanding, and immediate considerations.

He also stated that on 1 October 1988 he presented a four-point plan to both sides for implementing the more important and urgent sections of Resolution 598, which Iran accepted and which indirectly means that the other side did not do so. This was the UN secretary general's first official statement that Iran had officially accepted the four-point plan, which he insists is the only and most important way to implement Resolution 598. This is an important distinction on the international scene.

Immediately after the UN secretary general delivered this report to the Security Council, we reiterated Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to accept this plan, that is, the immediate implementation of the two sections, or two paragraphs, of Resolution 598 about the exchange of POW's and the withdrawal of forces. It was reported extensively and prominently by the mass media all over the world that the Islamic Republic of Iran had accepted simultaneously the UN secretary general's plan for the exchange of POW's as well as withdrawal of forces to international frontiers simultaneously.

Answering correspondents who had been misled by Iraq's false propaganda that Iran is not prepared to participate in direct talks, we announced that we have done so in the past and even now we are ready to continue direct talks under the UN secretary general's

auspices and to follow up on them. Iraq's demand for direct talks is, in fact, a ploy and infers private talks without the secretary general's presence for discussion on topics beyond the scope of Resolution 598.

This would be an effort not only to minimize the role of the UN secretary general but also of Resolution 598. We are opposed to this. However, we do not have anything against holding direct talks, and so far we have had 15 sessions of direct talks in 4 rounds and have announced that whenever the secretary general requests, we are ready to resume the direct talks.

Views UN Chief's Report

LD0110110189 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in a recent report to the U.N. Security Council on implementation of the Resolution 598 has underlined Iran's acceptance of his 4-point plan calling for immediate execution of the resolution, said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday [1 October].

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival from New York where he attended the 44th annual session of the U.N. General Assembly, he added that the report implicitly indicates Iraq's refusal of the plan.

Stating that it is the first time the secretary general in his statement has announced Iran's acceptance of the plan, he said, "such statements by the UN secretary general show Iran's commitment to international regulations, which by itself is a success."

He noted that the U.N. chief in his report, has stressed the need for immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces to internationally recognized borders and exchange of POW's, as the two main factors which must be promptly dealt with.

"Iran is ready for direct talks with Iraq under the supervision of the secretary general but, Iraqi suggestions are nothing but mere lies." He added, "conducting private talks on the issues outside the resolution results in the weakening of the role of the secretary general (in his peace efforts) and of the Resolution 598."

More on Iran-Iraq peace talks, he added that so far, four rounds of direct talks have been held between the two countries under the auspicies of the secretary general. As for his talks with Perez de Cuellar in New York, he said he made it clear that the existing documents in the U.N.—1975 accord, determine the border to which Iraq must withdraw.

As for POW's he said, "Iran has announced its readiness to exchange more than one thousand POW's." The Islamic Republic has in several occasions unilaterally released many Iraqi POW's, but Iraq has not reciprocated.

He added in compliance with a note signed in Geneva by the secretary general and the International Red Cross, Iran is prepared to release POW's but, however, Iraq has not cooperated in this respect.

As for other issues discussed during the annual session of the General Assembly, Velayati said they included detentes between the two superpowers and ban on chemical weapons production and storing but no practical measures were adopted.

Paper Calls Bush's UN Speech 'Pious Pretension'

LD3009072389 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—The English language TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial Saturday labelled the recent offer by President George Bush to eliminate part of the U.S. chemical stockpile "pious pretension". The editorial said that the offer was not "a genuine intention to act in the interests of a larger world peace."

President Bush last week called for a mutual elimination of 30 per cent of chemical arms stockpiled by the United States and the USSR at the United Nations General Assembly.

"It would seem that President Bush was merely using the occasion to give the United States a 'human face' as it were and to appear to be veering away from the dogmatic Reaganism of his predecessor," the daily said. It expressed doubt that President Bush was "truly sincere" in his call and really intended to take measures to eliminate chemical weapons on a world scale.

Referring to Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons during the imposed-war both against Iranians and Iraqi Kurdish population on a large scale, the daily stressed that Iraq could not have used the weapons without "the green light from the superpowers".

The English daily reminded that even now and after the cessation of the Iran-Iraq war, the Iraqi regime was producing and stockpiling the lethal weapons in collaboration with Eastern and Western Europe.

It concluded that taking into account the highly sophisticated intelligence networks of the United States and USSR and their links to the Iraqi regime "it is difficult to believe that both the United States and the Soviet Union are unaware of what is going on."

TEHRAN TIMES Cites Yazdi on Cooper Sentence

NC2909135089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Tehran—Contrary to foreign media propaganda it was divulged yesterday that a British spy in the Iranian prison has not been sentenced to be executed.

Roger Cooper was arrested in Tehran in 1985 on charges of spying against the Islamic Republic of Iran. His family members were allowed to meet him in the prison.

His sister-in-law, Lily Cooper is now in Tehran and last week met Roger Cooper in prison.

Lily yesterday was received by Judiciary Head Ayatollah Yazdi in his office. She presented a written application to Ayatollah Yazdi and expressed her thanks to the Iranian authorities for providing her a chance to come to Tehran and see Roger Cooper.

"I enjoyed talking to Roger Cooper in the prison and am happy to see him after so many years," Lily said.

Lily said that Roger Cooper told her that he was upset in jail because he was told that he was sentenced to death. "Naturally such news caused him anxiety," she said.

Ayatollah Yazdi in response to a query by Lily said that only the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has the authority to reduce the sentence or pardon Roger Cooper.

As far as the judiciary is concerned, Ayatollah Yazdi said, the case is over. He said that Roger Cooper is currently serving his term in prison. Ayatollah Yazdi said, "These are my views as the judicial authority but as a human being I wish he be freed as soon as possible."

Ayatollah Yazdi told Lily that if there was any difficulty or problems in prison Roger Cooper can refer it to the judicial authorities and due attention will be paid to his requests or complaints.

Ayatollah Yazdi granted permission to Lily to see once more Roger Cooper and he also allowed the officials at the British Interest Section to see the British prisoner.

Commenting further on the sentence Ayatollah Yazdi said no execution orders were issued by the court to Roger. He is just serving his term in prison, the Ayatollah said, adding that in the Islamic Republic of Iran if sentence is issued by a competent court nobody can change this except the Leader.

Basically the case of Roger Cooper is based on judicial principles and it has got nothing to do with either the relations of Iran and Britain or the case of Kurosh Fuladi, an Iranian who was recently released from British jail after almost 10 years there, Ayatollah Yazdi said.

Ayatollah Yazdi comparing the judicial system in the Islamic Republic said during the defunct Shah's regime the downtrodden people could not even think of seeing the judicial authorities while now in the Islamic system the highest judicial authorities are available to meet and discuss the related issues.

"That you as a family member of Roger Cooper are now in my office is the best example of the just system of the Islamic judiciary," Ayatollah Yazdi said.

Italian Official Comments on 'Hypocrites' Issue

LD3009112489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] (Urumno Buti), Italian acting foreign minister, at a meeting in Rome last night with the Iranian ambassador described the recent letter from a number of Italian parliamentary deputies concerning the issue of supporting the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] groups as lacking in authority and credence and said that this step was not a parliamentary question or interpellation on the part of the government, in parliament, and it is also not the official position of Italy.

Emphasizing the friendship of his country with the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: The Italian Government, while endeavoring to strengthen its relations with Iran, will also take advantage of every opportunity to normalize relations between Italy with members of the EEC. In continuation of his remarks, he dismissed the Italian Government's interference in the affairs of Italy's National Labor Bank's giving credit to the Iraqi regime during the war, and added: Italy and the EEC countries will continue their efforts toward the implementation of the Security Council's Resolution 598.

At this meeting, the Iranian ambassador regretted the pronouncement of such statements, which contradict the mutual interests and good relations of the two countries.

Daily Suggests Downgrading Relations With Italy

LD3009152289 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—Iran should downgrade her diplomatic relations with Italy if the Italian Government should not condemn the gesture by the Italian parliamentarians, the Persian daily ETTELA'AT suggested today.

"This response (the downgrading of diplomatic relations with Italy) would prove to the Italian Government and its parliament that our government, Majlis and revolution are not going to be blackmailed by the dishonourable offspring of Mussolini," said the daily.

Following the issuance of a letter by some American congressmen, a group of Italian deputies did the same and called for support for the outlawed Monafeqin (MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] counterrevolutionary Iranians based in Europe.

The episode started from the European Parliament, with the U.S. and Italy being the second and third loopholes in the chain. "Iran's indifference was a proper response to the routine and ineffectual statement of the European Parliament," ETTELA'AT said.

It said the Iranian Parliament and other institutions gave a suitable response to the American Congress, but about Italy one thing is worthy of note, that is the signatures of two Italian ministers on the document.

"Although the combination of the government and parliament in Italy is a melting pot with constantly changing ingredients the signatures of the two Italian ministers on the document has implications of its own," said the daily.

Karrubi Meets Palestinian, Lebanese Leaders

LD0110115589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Tawhid Movement; Colonel Abu-Musa, the temporary Fatah commander; Ahmad Jibril, leader of the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command; and Shaykh Tufayli, a prominent Lebanese clergymen, met and conferred with Mr Karrubi, the Majlis speaker, this morning.